
BELL's
BRITISH THEATRE.

VOL. IV.



BELL's
BRITISH THEATRE.

CONSISTING OF

THE MOST ESTEEMED

ENGLISH PLAYS.

VOL. IV.

CONTAINING

EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR, . . . BY BEN JONSON.
SUSPICIOUS HUSBAND, — HOADLY.
GRECIAN DAUGHTER, — MURPHY.
CHOLERIC MAN, — CUMBERLAND.

LONDON:

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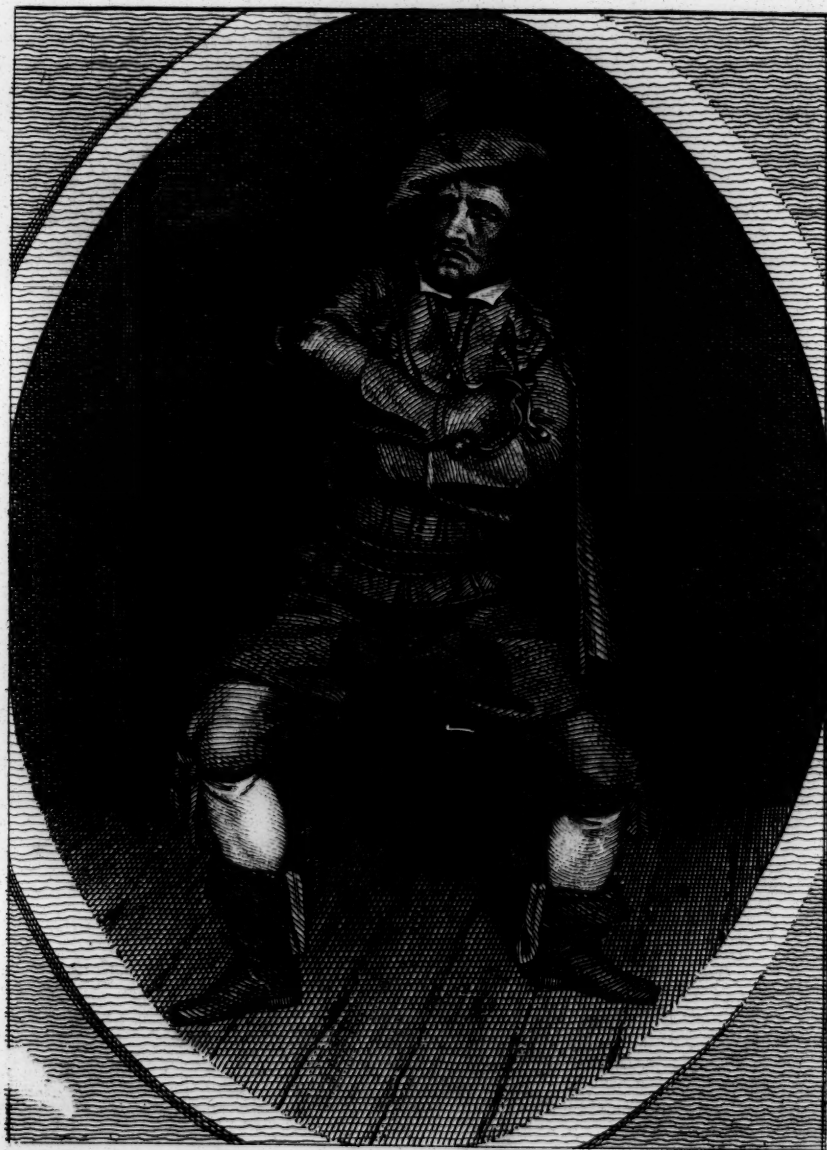
1797.



7 JU 52

Act.

EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR.



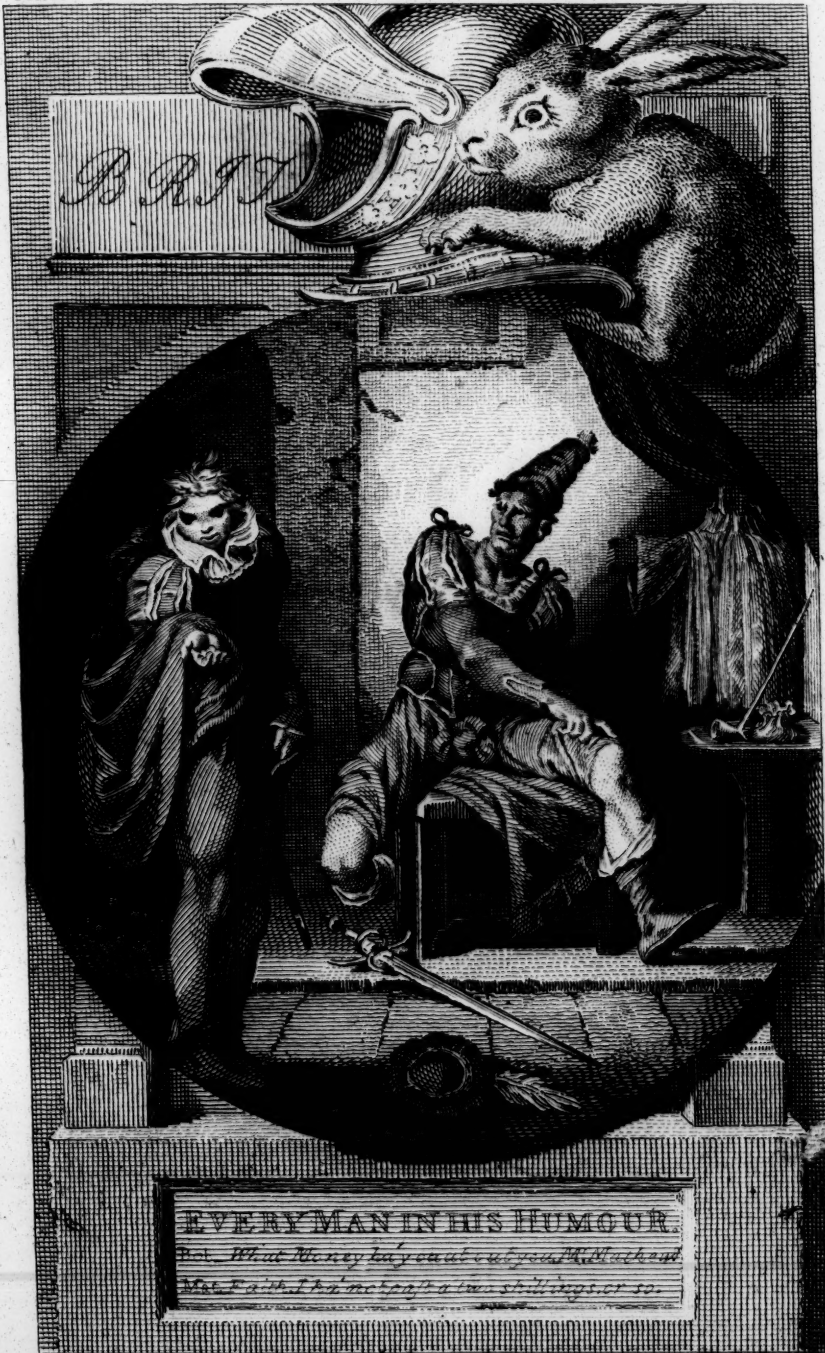
Le Wilde ad viv pinx!

Leamy, sc.

MCLELLANES & CAPT BOBARD.
Oh you disorder your point most irregularly!

London Printed for J. Bell, British Library, Strand, 24 Aug. 1791.

As I.



Fugeli pinx^t

Grignion sculp

London Printed for J. Bell, British Library, Strand Sept 24. 1791

7 JU 52

EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR.

A

COMEDY.

BY BEN JONSON.

AS ALTERED

BY *DAVID GARRICK, ESQ.*

ADAPTED FOR

THEATRICAL REPRESENTATION,

AS PERFORMED AT THE

THEATRE-ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN.

REGULATED FROM THE PROMPT-BOOK,

By Permission of the Managers.

“ The Lines distinguished by inverted Commas, are omitted in the Representation.”

LONDON:

Printed for the Proprietors, under the Direction of JOHN BELL,

British Library, STRAND,

Bookseller to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

M DCC XCI.



EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR.

THIS is one of the boldest Comedies in any language—Every sentence is stamped for sterling by the mintage of dramatic excellence.

Its characters are, however, all of them SHAKSPERIAN, from the tortur'd imagination of the jealous *Kitely* down to the slight insufficiency of Master *Stephen*.—As we do not recollect to have seen the contiguous characters in the great Bard particularly opposed to those of JONSON, it may not be unentertaining to point them nominally out, for leisure and curiosity to compare.

KITELY is obviously like FORD and LEONTES.

BOBADIL is between PISTOL and ARMADO.

KNO'WELL, as a father, is POLONIUS.

MR. STEPHEN resembles Sir ANDREW AGUE-CHEEK.

DOWNRIGHT performs the functions of FLUELLEN.

Justice CLEMENT is like our HOST of the GARTER.

MR. MATTHEW is MR. FROTH.

CASH speaks the very language of EMILIA,

And so on.—But they are coloured with a skill so profound, that the copies are nearly as valuable as the originals.

In the perusal of this Piece lately, it has risen considerably in our estimation—We could not resist weighing together *Ford* and *Kitely* in the balance of comparison, and it was long ere we could determine upon the superiority of power; at length a slight difference in their ages induced us, but with hesitation, to give the place of honour to *Ford*.

PROLOGUE.

*CRITICS, your favour is our author's right—
The well-known scenes we shall present to-night
Are no weak efforts of a modern pen,
But the strong touches of immortal Ben;
A rough old Bard, whose honest pride disdain'd
Applause itself unless by merit gain'd ———
And wou'd to-night your loudest praise disclaim,
Shou'd his great shade perceive the doubtful fame,
Not to his labours granted, but his name.
Boldly he wrote, and boldly told the age,
“ He dar'd not prostitute the useful stage,
“ Or purchase their delight at such a rate,
“ As, for it, he himself must justly hate:
“ But rather begg'd they wou'd be pleas'd to see
“ From him, such plays as other plays shou'd be:
“ Wou'd learn from him to scorn a motley scene,
“ And leave their monsters, to be pleas'd with men.”
Thus spoke the bard—and tho' the times are chang'd,
Since his free muse for fools the city rang'd;
And satire had not then appear'd in state,
To lash the finer follies of the great;
Yet let not prejudice infect your mind,
Nor slight the gold, because not quite refin'd;
With no false niceness this performance view,
Nor damn for low, whate'er is just and true:
Sure to those scenes some honour shou'd be paid,
Which Cambden patroniz'd, and Shakspeare play'd:
Nature was Nature then, and still survives:
The garb may alter, but the substance lives.*

*Lives in this play——where each may find complete
His pictur'd self——Then favour the deceit——
Kindly forget the hundred years between ;
Become old Britons, and admire old Ben.*

Dramatis Personae.

COVENT-GARDEN.

Men.

KITELY, a merchant,	- - -	Mr. Wroughton.
Captain BOBADIL,	- - -	Mr. Lee-Lewes.
KNO'WELL, an old gentleman,	- - -	Mr. Hull.
ED. KNO'WELL, his son,	- - -	Mr. Whitfield.
BRAIN-WORM, the father's man,	- - -	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. STEPHEN, a country gull,	- - -	Mr. Edwin.
DOWNRIGHT, a plain squire,	- - -	Mr. Clarke.
WELL-BRED, his half brother,	- - -	Mr. Robson.
Justice CLEMENT, an old merry magis- trate,	- - - } - - - }	Mr. Booth.
ROGER FORMAL, his clerk,	- - -	Mr. Jones.
Mr. MATTHEW, the town gull,	- - -	Mr. Wewitzer.
CASH, Kitley's man,	- - -	Mr. Thompson.
COB, a water-bearer,	- - -	Mr. Fearon.

Women.

Dame KITELY,	- - -	Mrs. Bulkley.
Mrs. BRIDGET, sister to Kitley,	- - -	Mrs. Whitfield.
TIB, Cob's wife,	- - -	Mrs. Pitt.

SCENE, London.



EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR.

ACT I. SCENE I.

A Court-Yard before KNO'WELL's House. Enter KNO'WELL and BRAIN-WORM.

Kno'well.

A GOODLY day toward ! and a fresh morning ! Brain-worm,
Call up young master. Bid him rise, sir.
Tell him I have some business to employ him.

Bra. I will, sir, presently.

Kno. But hear you, sirrah.

If he be at his book, disturb him not.

Bra. Well, sir.

[*Exit.*

Kno. How happy, yet, should I esteem myself,
Could I, by any practice wean the boy
From one vain course of study he affects.
He is a scholar, if a man may trust
The liberal voice of Fame in her report,
Of good account, in both our universities ;
Either of which have favoured him with graces :
But their indulgence must not spring in me
A fond opinion, that he cannot err.
Myself was once a student ; and, indeed,

Fed with the self-same humour, he is now,
 Dreaming on nought but idle poetry,
 That fruitless, and unprofitable art, 20
 Good unto none, but least to the professors,
 Which, then, I thought the mistress of all knowledge:
 But since time and the truth have wak'd my judgment,
 And reason taught me better to distinguish
 The vain from the useful learnings—

Enter Master STEPHEN.

Cousin Stephen!

What news with you, that you are here so early?

Step. Nothing, but e'en come to see how you do, uncle.

Kno. That's kindly done, you are welcome, coz.

Step. Ay, I know that, sir, I would not ha' come else. How
 doth my cousin Edward, uncle? 31

Kno. O, well, coz, go in and see: I doubt he be scarce
 stirring yet.

Step. Uncle, afore I go in, can you tell me an' he have e'er
 a book of the sciences of hawking and hunting? I would fain
 borrow it.

Kno. Why, I hope you will not a hawking now, will you?

Step. No wosse, but I'll practise against the next year, un-
 cle. I have bought me a hawk, and a hood, and bells, and
 all; I lack nothing but a book to keep it by. 40

Kno. O, most ridiculous!

Step. Nay, look you now, you are angry, uncle. Why, you
 know, an' a man have not skill in the hawking and hunting
 languages now-a-days, I'll not give a rush for him. They are
 more studied than the Greek, or the Latin. He is for no
 gallant's company without 'em. And by Gad's lid I scorn
 it, I, so I do, to be a consort for every hum-drum, hang
 'em scroyles, there's nothing in 'em, i' the world. What do

you talk on it? Because I dwell at Hogsden, I shall keep company with none but the archers of Finsbury! or the citizens, that come a ducking to Islington ponds! A fine jest i'faith! slid, a gentleman mun show himself like a gentleman. Uncle, I pray you be not angry. I know what I have to do, I trow, I am no novice.

Kno. You are a prodigal, absurd coxcomb: go to! Nay, never look at me, it's I that speak. Take't as you will, sir, I'll not flatter you. Ha' you not yet found means enow to waste That which your friends have left you, but you must Go cast away your money on a kite, And know not how to keep it when you've done? O, it's comely! this will make you a gentleman! Well, cousin, well! I see you are e'en past hope Of all reclaim. Ay, so, now you're told on it, You look another way.

60

Step. What would you ha' me do?

Kno. What would I have you do! I'll tell you kinsman; Learn to be wise, and practise how to thrive; That would I have thee do: and not to spend Your coin on every bawble that you fancy, Or every foolish brain that humours you. " I would not have you to invade each place, " Nor thrust yourself on all societies, " Till men's affections, or your own desert, " Should worthily invite you to your rank. " He that is so disrespectful in his courses, " Oft sells his reputation at cheap market. " Nor would I you should melt away yourself " In flashing bravery, lest while you affect " To make a blaze of gentry to the world, " A little puff of scorn extinguish it,

70

80

“ And you be left like an unsavory snuff,
“ Whose property is only to offend.”
I’d ha’ you sober and contain yourself :
Not, that your sail be bigger than your boat :
But mod’rate your expences now (at first)
As you may keep the same proportion still.
Nor stand so much on your gentility,
Which is an airy, and mere borrow’d thing,
From dead men’s dust and bones : and none of yours, 90
Except you make, or hold it. Who comes here ?

Enter a Servant.

Serv. Save you, gentlemen.

Step. Nay, we do not stand much on our gentility, friend ; yet, you are welcome ; and I assure you mine uncle here is a man of a thousand a-year, Middlesex land : he has but one son in all the world ; I am his next heir (at the common law) Master Stephen, as simple as I stand here ; if my cousin die (as there’s hope he will). I have a pretty living o’ my own too, beside, hard by here.

Serv. In good time, sir. 100

Step. In good time, sir ! why ? and in very good time, sir. You do not flout, friend, do you ?

Serv. Not I, sir.

Step. Not you, sir ; you were not best, sir ! an’ you should, here be them can perceive it, and that quickly too : go to. And they can give it again soundly too, and need be.

Serv. Why, sir, let this satisfy you : good faith, I had no such intent.

Step. Sir, an’ I thought you had, I would talk with you, and that presently. 110

Serv. Good Master Stephen, so you may, sir, at your pleasure.

Step. And so I would, sir, good my saucy companion ! an' you were out o' my uncle's ground, I can tell you ; though I do not stand upon my gentility neither in't.

Kno. Cousin ! cousin ! will this ne'er be left ?

Step. Whoreson, base fellow ! a mechanical serving man ! By this cudgel, and 'twere not for shame, I would—

Kno. What would you do, you peremptory gull ?
If you cannot be quiet, get you hence.

120

You see, the honest man demeans himself
Modestly towards you, giving no reply
To your unseason'd, quarrelling, rude fashion :
And still you huff it, with a kind of carriage,
As void of wit, as of humanity.

Go, get you in, 'fore Heaven, I am asham'd

Thou hast a kinsman's interest in me.

[*Exit. Step.*]

Serv. I pray you, sir, is this Master Kno'well's house ?

Kno. Yes, marry, is't, sir.

129

Serv. I should inquire for a gentleman here, one Master Edward Kno'well : do you know any such, sir, I pray you ?

Kno. I should forget myself else, sir.

Serv. Are you the gentleman : cry your mercy, sir : I was requir'd by a gentleman i' the city, as I rode out at this end of the town, to deliver you this letter, sir.

Kno. To me, sir ! [*To his most selected friend, Master Edward Kno'well.*] What might the gentleman's name be, sir, that sent it ?

Serv. One Master Well-bred, sir.

Kno. Master Well-bred ! A young gentleman ? Is he not ?

141

Serv. The same, sir ; Master Kitely married his sister : the rich merchant i' the Old Jewry.

Kno. You say very true. Brain-worm.

Enter BRAIN-WORM.

Brain. Sir.

Kno. Make this honest friend drink here. Pray you go in.

[Exeunt Brain. and Servant.]

This letter is directed to my son :

Yet I am Edward Kno'well too, and may,

With the safe conscience of good manners, use

The fellow's error to my satisfaction.

Well, I will break it ope (old men are curious)

150

Be it but for the stile's sake, and the phrase,

To see if both do answer my son's praises,

Who is, almost, grown the idolater

Of this young Well-bred : What have we here ?—What's
this ?

[The Letter.]

Why, Ned, I beseech thee, hast thou forsworn all thy friends i' th' Old Jury ? or dost thou think us all Jews that inhabit there ? Leave thy vigilant father alone, to number over his green apricots, evening and morning, o' the north-west wall : an I had been his son, I had sav'd him the labour long since ; if, taking in all the young wenches that pass by, at the back door, and coddling every kernel of the fruit for 'em would ha' served. But pr'ythee, come over to me, quickly, this morning : I have such a present for thee (our Turkey company never sent the like to the Grand Signior). One is a rhimer, sir, o' your own batch, your own leaven ; but doth think himself poet-major o' the town ; willing to be shewn, and worthy to be seen. The other—I will not venture his description with you till you come, because I would ha' you make hither with an appetite. If the worst of 'em be not worth your journey, draw your bill of charges, as unconscionable as any Guildhall verdict will give it you, and you shall be allow'd your Viaticum.

170

From the Windmill.

From the Burdello, it might come as well ;
 The Spittal : is this the man,
 My son hath sung so, for the happiest wit,
 The choicest brain, the times hath sent us forth ?
 I know not what he may be in the arts ;
 Nor what in schools : but surely, for his manners,
 I judge him a profane and dissolute wretch :
 Worse, by profession of such great good gifts,
 Being the master of so loose a spirit. 180
 Why, what unhallow'd ruffian would have writ,
 In such a scurrilous manner, to a friend ?
 Why should he think, I tell my apricots ?
 Or play th' Hesperian dragon with my fruit,
 To watch it ? Well, my son, I 'ad thought
 You'd had more judgment, t' have made election
 Of your companions, " than t' have ta'en on trust
 " Such petulant, jeering gamesters, that can spare
 " No argument, or subject from their jest."
 But I perceive, affection makes a fool 190
 Of any man, too much the father. Brain-worm.

Enter BRAIN-WORM.

Brain. Sir.

Kno. Is the fellow gone that brought this letter ?

Brain. Yes, sir, a pretty while since.

Kno. And where's your young master ?

Brain. In his chamber, sir.

Kno. He spake not with the fellow, did he ?

Brain. No, sir, he saw him not.

Kno. Take you this letter, seal it, and deliver it my son ;
 But with no notice that I have open'd it on your life. 200

Brain. O lord, sir, that were a jest, indeed !

Kno. I am resolv'd, I will not stop his journey;
 Nor practise any violent means to stay
 The unbridled course of youth in him: for that,
 Restrain'd, grows more impatient: "and, in kind,
 " Like to the eager, but the generous grey-hound,
 " Who ne'er so little from his game withheld,
 " Turns head, and leaps up at his holder's throat."
 There is a way of winning, more by love,
 And urging of the modesty, than fear: 210
 Force works on servile natures, not the free.
 He, that's compell'd to goodness, may be good;
 But 'tis but for that fit: where others, drawn
 By softness, and example, get a habit.
 Then if they stray, but warn 'em: and, the same
 They would for virtue do, they'll do for shame. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

*Young KNO'WELL's Study. Enter EDWARD KNO'WELL and
 BRAIN-WORM.*

E. Kno. Did he open it, say'st thou?

Brain. Yes, o' my word, sir, and read the contents.

E. Kno. That's bad. What countenance, pray thee, made
 he in the reading of it? Was he angry, or pleas'd? 220

Brain. Nay, sir, I saw him not read it, nor open it, I as-
 sure your worship.

E. Kno. No! How know'st thou then, that he did either?

Brain. Marry, sir, because he charg'd me, on my life, to
 tell nobody that he open'd it: which, unless he had done, he
 would never fear to have it reveal'd.

E. Kno. That's true; Well, I thank thee, Brain-worm.

Enter Master STEPHEN.

Step. O ! Brain-worm, didst thou not see a fellow here, in a what-sha'-call-him doublet ? He brought mine uncle a letter e'en now. 230

Brain. Yes, Master Stephen, what of him ?

Step. O ! I ha' such a mind to beat him—where is he ? canst thou tell ? 210

Brain. Faith, he is not of that mind : he is gone, Master Stephen.

Step. Gone ! which way ? When went he ? How long since ?

Brain. He is rid hence. He took horse at the street door.

Step. And I stay'd i' th' fields ! Whoreson, Scanderbeg rogue ; O that I had but a horse to fetch him back again.

Brain. Why, you may ha' my master's gelding, to save your longing, sir.

Step. But I ha' no boots, that's the spite on't.

Brain. Why, a fine whisp of hay, roll'd hard, Master Stephen. 250

Step. No, faith, it's no boot to follow him now ; let him e'en go and hang. Pr'ythee, help to truss me a little. He does so vex me—

Brain. You'll be worse vex'd, when you are truss'd, Master Stephen. Best keep unbrac'd, and walk yourself till you be cold, your choler may founder you else. 251

Step. By my faith, and so I will, now thou tell'st me on't. How dost thou like my leg, Brain-worm ?

Brain. A very good leg, Master Stephen ; but the woollen stockings does not commend it so well.

Step. Foh, the stockings be good enough, now summer is coming on, for the dust : I'll have a pair of silk against win-

ter, that I go to dwell i' the town. I think my leg would shew in a silk hose.

Brain. Believe me, Master Stephen, rarely well. 260

Step. In sadness, I think it would; I have a reasonable good leg.

Brain. You have an excellent good leg, Master Stephen; but I cannot stay to praise it longer now; I am very sorry for't. [Exit.

Step. Another time will serve, Brain-worm. Gramercy, for this.

Enter Young KNO'WELL.

E. Kno. Ha, ha, ha!

Step. 'Slid! I hope he laughs not at me; an' he do——

E. Kno. Here was a letter, indeed, to be intercepted by a man's father! He cannot but think most virtuously both of me and the sender, sure, that makes the careful coster-monger of him in our familiar epistles. I wish I knew the end of it, which now is doubtful, and threatens——What! my wise cousin! Nay, then I'll furnish our feast with one gull more tow'rd the mess. He writes to me of a brace, and here's one, that's three: O, for a fourth! Fortune! if ever thou'lt use thine eyes, I entreat thee——

Step. O, now I see who he laughs at. He laughs at somebody in that letter. By this good light, an' he had laugh'd at me—— 281

E. Kno. How now, cousin Stephen, melancholy?

Step. Yes, a little. I thought you had laugh'd at me, cousin.

E. Kno. Why, what an' I had, coz, what would you ha' done?

Step. By this light, I would ha' told mine uncle.

E. Kno. Nay, if you would ha' told your uncle, I did laugh at you, coz.

Step. Did you indeed?

295

E. Kno. Yes, indeed.

Step. Why, then——

E. Kno. What then?

Step. I am satisfied; it is sufficient.

E. Kno. Why, be so, gentle coz. And I pray you, let me entreat a courtesy of you. I am sent for, this morning, by a friend i' the Old Jewry, to come to him: it's but crossing over the fields to Moorgate: will you bear me company? I protest, it is not to draw you into bond, or any plot against the state, coz.

300

Step. Sir, that's all one, an 'twere; you shall command me, twice so far as Moorgate, to do you good, in such a matter. Do you think I would leave you? I protest——

E. Kno. No, no, you shall not protest, coz.

Step. By my fackins, but I will, by your leave; I'll protest more to my friend, then I'll speak of at this time.

E. Kno. You speak very well, coz.

Step. Nay, not so, neither; you shall pardon me: but I speak to serve my turn.

309

E. Kno. Your turn, coz! Do you know what you say? A gentleman of your sort, parts, carriage, and estimation, to talk o' your turn i' this company, and to me, alone, like a water-bearer at a conduit! "fie! A wight, that, hitherto, his every
" step hath left the stamp of a great foot behind him, at
" every word the savour of a strong spirit; and he! this
" man, so graced, so gilded, or, as I may say, so tinfoyl'd by
" nature."—Come, come, wrong not the quality of your desert, with looking downward, coz; but hold up your head so; and let the idea of what you are, be pourtray'd i' your face, that men may read i' your physiognomy: *here, within*

this place is to be seen the true, and accomplish'd monster, or miracle of nature, which is all one. What think you of this, coz?

Step. Why, I do think of it; and I will be more proud, and melancholy, and gentleman-like, than I have been, I'll assure you.

E. Kno. Why, that's resolute, Master Stephen! Now, if I can but hold him up to his height, as it is happily begun, it will do well for a suburb-humour: we may hap have a match with the city, and play him for forty pounds. Come, coz.

331

Step. I'll follow you.

E. Kno. Follow me; you must go before.

Step. Nay, an' I must, I will. Pray you, shew me, good cousin.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

The Street before COB's House. Enter Mr. MATTHEW.

Mat. I think this be the house. What, hoa!

Enter COB, from the House.

Cob. Who's there? O, Master Matthew! gi' your worship good morrow.

Mat. What, Cob! How dost thou, good Cob? Dost thou inhabit here, Cob?

340

Cob. Ay, sir, I and my lineage ha' kept a poor house here in our days.

Mat. Cob, canst thou shew me of a gentleman, one Captain Bobadil, where his lodging is?

Cob. O, my guest, sir, you mean!

Mat. Thy guest! Alas! ha, ha.

Cob. Why do you laugh, sir? Do you not mean Captain Bobadil? 348

Mat. Cob, pray thee, advise thyself well: do not wrong the gentleman and thyself too. I dare be sworn he scorns thy house. He! he lodge in such a base, obscure place as thy house! Tut, I know his disposition so well, he would not lie in thy bed, if thou shoul'dst gi' it him.

Cob. I will not give it him, though, sir. Mass, I thought somewhat was in't we could not get him to-bed, all night! Well, sir, though he lies not o' my bed, he lies o' my bench. An't please you to go up, sir, you shall find him with two cushions under his head, and his cloak wrapped about him, as though he had neither won nor lost; and yet, I warrant, he ne'er cast better in his life, than he has done, to-night.

Mat. Why, was he drunk? 361

Cob. Drunk sir! you hear not me say so. Perhaps he swallowed a tavern-token, or some such device, sir, I have nothing to do withal. I deal with water, and not with wine. Gi' me my bucket there, hoa. God b' w' you, sir, it is six o'clock: I should have carried two turns by this. What hoa! my stopple! come.

Mat. Lie in a water-bearer's house! A gentleman of his havings! Well, I'll tell him my mind. 369

Cob. What Tib, shew this gentleman up to the captain. [*Tib shews Master Matthew into the house.*] You should ha' some now, would take this Mr. Matthew to be a gentleman at the least. His father is an honest man, a worshipful fishmonger, and so forth; and now does he creep, and wriggle into acquaintance with all the brave gallants about the town, such as my guest is. O, my guest is a fine man! he does swear the legiblest of any man christened: by St. George—the foot of Pharaoh—the body of me,—as I am a gentleman—and a

soldier; such dainty oaths! and withal, he does take this same filthy roguish tobacco, the finest and cleanliest! it would do a man good to see the fume come forth out at's tonnels! Well, he owes me forty shillings, my wife lent him out of her purse by six-pence a time, besides his lodging; I would I had it. I shall ha' it, he says, the next action. Helter-skelter, hang sorrow, care 'll kill a cat, up-tails all, and a louse for the hangman. [Exit.]

SCENE IV.

A Room in COB's House. BOBADIL discovered upon a Bench.

TIB enters to him.

Bob. Hostess, hostess!

Tib. What say you, sir?

Bob. A cup o' thy small beer, sweet hostess.

Tib. Sir, there's a gentleman below would speak with you.

Bob. A gentleman! 'ods so, I'm not within. 391

Tib. My husband told him you were, sir.

Bob. What a plague—what meant he?

Mat. [Within.] Captain Bobadil!

Bob. Who's there!—Take away the bason, good hostess. Come up, sir.

Tib. He would desire you to come up, sir. You come into a cleanly house here.

Enter Mr. MATTHEW.

Mat. 'Save you, sir; 'save you, captain.

Bob. Gentle Master Matthew! is it you, sir? Please you sit down. 401

Mat. Thank you, good captain; you may see I am somewhat audacious.

Bob. Not so, sir. I was requested to supper, last night, by a sort of gallants, where you were wish'd for, and drank to, I assure you.

Mat. Vouchsafe me by whom, good captain.

Bob. Marry, by young Well-bred, and others. Why, hostess ! a stool here for this gentleman.

Mat. No haste, sir, 'tis very well. 410

Bob. Body of me ! It was so late ere we parted last night, I can scarce open my eyes yet : I was but new risen, as you came. How passes the day abroad, sir ? you can tell.

Mat. Faith, some half hour to seven. Now trust me, you have an exceeding fine lodging here, very neat, and private !

Bob. Ay, sir : sit down. I pray you, Master Matthew, in any case, possess no gentleman of our acquaintance with notice of my lodging.

Mat. Who ? I, sir ? No.

Bob. Not that I need to care who know it, for the cabin is convenient ; but in regard I would not be too popular and generally visited, as some are. 422

Mat. True, captain, I conceive you.

Bob. For, do you see, sir, by the heart of valour in me, except it be to some peculiar and choice spirits, to whom I am extraordinarily engaged, as yourself, or so, I could not extend thus far.

Mat. O lord, sir, I resolve so. [*Pulls out a paper and reads.*]

Bob. I confess, I love a cleanly and quiet privacy, above all the tumult and roar of fortune. What new piece ha' you there ? Read it. 431

Mat. [*Reads.*] *To thee, the purest object of my sense,
The most refined essence Heaven covers,*

*Send I these lines, wherein I do commence
The happy state of turtle-billing lovers.*

Bob. 'Tis good ; proceed, proceed. Where's this !

Mat. This, sir? a toy o' mine own, in my nonage: the infancy of my muses. But, when will you come and see my study? Good faith, I can shew you some very good things I have done of late——That boot becomes your leg, passing well, captain, methinks. 441

Bob. So, so; it's the fashion gentlemen now use.

Mat. Troth, captain, and now you speak o' the fashion, Master Well-bred's elder brother and I are fall'n out exceedingly: this other day, I happen'd to enter into some discourse of a hanger, which I assure you, both for fashion and workmanship, was most peremptory-beautiful, and gentleman-like; yet he condemn'd, and cry'd it down, for the most pied and ridiculous that ever he saw.

Bob. 'Squire Downright, the half-brother, was't not?

Mat. Ay, sir, George Downright. 451

Bob. Hang him, rook! He! why, he has no more judgment than a malt-horse. By St. George, I wonder you'd lose a thought upon such an animal! The most peremptory absurd clown of Christendom, this day, he is holden. I protest to you, as I am a gentleman and a soldier, I ne'er chang'd words with his like. By his discourse, he should eat nothing but hay. He was born for the manger, pannier, or pack-saddle! He has not so much as a good phrase in his belly, but all old iron and rusty proverbs! a good commodity for some smith to make hob-nails of. 461

Mat. Ay, and he thinks to carry it away with his manhood still, where he comes. He brags he will gi' me the bastinado, as I hear.

Bob. How! he the bastinado! how came he by that word, trow?

Mat. Nay, indeed, he said cudgel me; I term'd it so, for my more grace.

Bob. That may be: for I was sure, it was none of his word. But when! when said he so? 470

Mat. Faith, yesterday, they say : a young gallant, a friend of mine, told me so.

Bob. By the foot of Pharaoh, an' 'twere my case now, I should send him a challenge, presently. The bastinado ! A most proper, and sufficient dependence, warranted by the great Caranza. Come hither, you shall challenge him. I'll shew you a trick or two, you shall kill him with, at pleasure : the first stoccata, if you will, by this air.

Mat. Indeed you have absolute knowledge i' the mystery, I have heard, sir. 480

Bob. Of whom ? Of whom ha' you heard it, I beseech you ?

Mat. Troth, I have heard it spoken of by divers, that you have very rare and un-in-one-breath-utterable skill, sir.

Bob. By Heaven, no, not I ; no skill i' the earth : some small rudiments i' the science, as to know my time, distance, or so. I have profest it more for noblemen and gentlemen's use than mine own practice, I assure you. I'll give you a lesson. Look you, sir. Exalt not your point above this state, at any hand ; so, sir. Come on ! O, twine your body more about, that you may fall to a more sweet, comely, gentleman-like guard. So, indifferent. Hollow your body more, sir, thus. Now, stand fast o' your left leg ; note your distance ; keep your due proportion of time—Oh, you disorder your point most irregularly ! Come, put on your cloak, and we'll go to some private place, where you are acquainted, some tavern or so—and have a bit——What money ha' you about you, Mr. Matthew ?

Mat. Faith, I ha' not past a two shillings, or so. 499

Bob. 'Tis somewhat with the least : but come, we will have a bunch of raddishes, and salt, to taste our wine ; and a pipe of tobacco, to close the orifice of the stomach : and then we'll call upon young Well-bred. Perhaps we shall meet the

Corydon, his brother, there, and put him to the question.
Come along, Mr. Matthew. [Exeunt.

ACT II. SCENE I.

A Warehouse, belonging to KITELY. Enter KITELY, CASH, and DOWNRIGHT.

Kitely.

THOMAS, come hither.

There lies a note within, upon my desk,
Here, take my key——It is no matter, neither.
Where is the boy?

Cash. Within, sir, i' the warehouse.

Kit. Let him tell over, straight, that Spanish gold,
And weight it, with the pieces of eight. Do you
See the delivery of those silver stuffs
To Mr. Lucar. Tell him, if he will,
He shall ha' the grograns at the rate I told him,
And I will meet him, on the Exchange, anon.

10

Cash. Good, sir.

[Exit.

Kite. Do you see that fellow, brother Downright?

Dow. Aye, what of him?

Kite. He is a jewel, brother,——

I took him of a child, up, at my door,
And christened him; gave him my own name, Thomas;
Since bred him, at the hospital; where proving
A toward imp, I call'd him home, and taught him
So much, as I have made him my cashier,
And find him, in his place, so full of faith,
That I durst trust my life into his hands.

20

Dow. So would not I in any bastard's, brother,

As, it is like, he is, although I knew
Myself his father. But you said you'd somewhat
To tell me, gentle brother ; what is't ? what-is't ?

Kite. Faith, I am very loth to utter it,
As fearing it may hurt your patience :
But that I know your judgment is of strength,
Against the nearness of affection——

30

Dow. What need this circumstance ? Pray you be direct.

“ *Kite.* I will not say how much I do ascribe
“ Unto your friendship ; nor, in what regard
“ I hold your love ; but let my past behaviour,
“ And usage of your sister, but confirm
“ How well I've been affected to your——

“ *Dow.* You are too tedious,” come to the matter, the
matter.

Kite. Then, without further ceremony, thus.
My brother, Well-bred, sir, I know not how,
Of late, is much declin'd in what he was,
And greatly alter'd in his disposition.

40

When he came first to lodge here in my house,
Ne'er trust me, if I were not proud of him :
“ Methought he bare himself in such a fashion,
“ So full of man, and sweetness in his carriage,
“ And what was chief, it shew'd not borrow'd in him,
“ But all he did, became him as his own,
“ And seem'd as perfect, proper, and possest,
“ As breath with life, or colour with the blood :”

But now his course is so irregular,
So loose, affected, and depriv'd of grace,
“ And he himself withal so far fall'n off
“ From that first place, as scarce no note remains,
“ To tell men's judgments where he lately stood.
“ He's grown a stranger to all due respect ;

50

“ Forgetful of his friends, and not content

“ To stale himself in all societies,”

He makes my house here, common, as a mart,

A theatre, a public receptacle

For giddy humour and diseased riot :

60

And here, as in a tavern or a stew,

He and his wild associates spend their hours

In repetition of lascivious jests :

Swear, leap, drink, dance, and revel night by night,

Control my servants ; and indeed what not !

Dow. 'Sdains, I know not what I should say to him i' the whole world ! he values me at a crack'd three farthings, for ought I see. It will never out o' the flesh that's bred i' the bone ! I have told him enough, one would think, if that would serve. Well ! he knows what to trust to, for George. Let him spend and spend, and domineer, till his heart ache ; an' he think to be relieved by me, when he is got into one o' your city-pounds, the counters, he has the wrong sow by the ear, i' faith, and claps his dish at a wrong man's door. I'll lay my hand o' my halfpenny, ere I part with't, to fetch him out, I'll assure him.

Kite. Nay, good brother, let it not trouble you, thus.

Dow. S'death, he made me—I could eat my very spur-leathers, for anger ! But, why are you so tame ? Why do not you speak to him, and tell him how he disquiets your house ?

Kite. O, there are divers reasons to dissuade, brother ; 81
But, would yourself vouchsafe to travail in it,
Though but with plain and easy circumstance,
It would both come much better to his sense,
And savour less of stomach, or of passion.
You are his elder brother, and that title
Both gives and warrants you authority :
Whereas, if I should intimate the least,

It would but add contempt to his neglect,
 Heap worse on ill, make up a pile of hatred,
 That, in the rearing, would come tott'ring down,
 And, in the ruin, bury all our love.

90

Nay, more than this, brother, if I should speak,
 He would be ready, from his heat of humour,
 And over-flowing of the vapour, in him,
 To blow the ears of his familiars

With the false breath of telling what disgraces
 And low disparagements I had put upon him.

Whilst they, sir, to relieve him in the fable,

Make their loose comments upon ev'ry word,

100

Gesture or look, I use; mock me all o'er;

And, out of their impetuous rioting phant'sies,

Beget some slander that shall dwell with me.

And what would that be, think you? Marry, this:

They would give out, because my wife is fair,

Myself but newly married, and my sister

Here sojourning a virgin in my house,

That I were jealous! Nay, as sure as death,

That they would say. And how that I had quarrell'd

My brother purposely, thereby to find

110

An apt pretext to banish them my house.

Dow. Mass, perhaps so: they're like enough to do it.

Kite. Brother, they would believe it: so should I,

Like one of these penurious quack-salvers,

But set the bills up to mine own disgrace,

And try experiments upon myself:

Lend scorn and envy opportunity

To stab my reputation and good name.—

Enter MATTHEW and BOBADIL.

Mat. I will speak to him—

119

Bob. Speak to him ! Away ! by the foot of Pharaoh, you shall not ; you shall not do him that grace.

Kite. What's the matter, sirs ?

Bob. The time of day, to you, gentleman o' the house. Is Mr. Well-bred stirring ?

Dow. How then ? what should he do ?

Bob. Gentleman of the house, it is you : is he within, sir ?

Kite. He came not to his lodging to-night, sir, I assure you.

Dow. Why, do you hear ? you ! 129

Bob. The gentleman-citizen hath satisfy'd me, I'll talk to no scavenger. [*Exeunt Bob. and Mat.*]

Dow. How, scavenger ! stay, sir, stay !

Kite. Nay, brother Downright.

Dow. 'Heart ! stand you away, an' you love me.

Kite. You shall not follow him now, I pray you, brother ; good faith you shall not : I will over-rule you.

Dow. Ha ! scavenger ! Well, go to, I say little : but by this good day (God forgive me I should swear) if I put it up so, say, I am the rankest coward ever liv'd. 'Sdains, an' I swallow this, I'll ne'er draw my sword in the sight of Fleet-street again, while I live ; I'll sit in a barn with Madge Howlet, and catch mice first. Scavenger ! 142

Kite. Oh, do not fret yourself thus, never think on't.

Dow. These are my brother's consorts, these ! these are his comrades, his walking mates ! he's a gallant, a cavaliero too, right hangman cut ! Let me not live, an' I could not find in my heart to swinge the whole gang of 'em, one after another, and begin with him first. I am griev'd it should be said he is my brother, and take these courses. Well, as he brews, so he shall drink, for George, again. Yet, he shall hear on't, and that tightly too, an' I live, i' faith. 151

Kite. But, brother, let your reprehension then

Run in an easy current, not o'er high,
Carried with rashness, or devouring choler ;
But rather use the soft persuading way,
More winning, than enforcing the consent.

Dow. Ay, ay, let me alone for that, I warrant you.

[*Bell rings.*

Kite. How now ! Oh, the bell rings to breakfast.
Brother, I pray you, go in, and bear my wife
Company till I come ; I'll but give order
For some dispatch of business to my servant——

160

Dow. I will—Scavenger !—scavenger !—— [*Exit Dow.*

Kite. Well, tho' my troubled spirit's somewhat eas'd,
It's not repos'd in that security

As I could wish : but, I must be content.

Howe'er I set a face on't to the world,

Would I had lost this finger, at a venture,

So Well-bred had ne'er lodg'd within my house.

Why't cannot be, where there is such resort

Of wanton gallants, and young revellers,

That any woman should be honest long.

Is't like that factious beauty will preserve

The public weal of chastity unshaken,

When such strong motives muster, and make head

Against her single peace ? No, no. Beware.

When mutual appetite doth meet to treat,

And spirits of one kind and quality

Come once to parley, in the pride of blood,

It is now slow conspiracy that follows.

Well, to be plain, if I but thought the time

Had answer'd their affections, all the world

Should not persuade me, but I were a cuckold !

Marry, I hope they ha' not got that start ;

For opportunity hath balk'd them yet,

170

180

And shall do still, while I have eyes and ears
 To attend the impositions of my heart.
 My presence shall be as an iron-bar,
 'Twixt the conspiring motions of desire ;
 Yea, every look or glance mine eye ejects,
 Shall check occasion, as one doth his slave,
 When he forgets the limits of prescription.

190

Enter Dame KITELY.

Dame. Sister Bridget, pray you fetch down the rose-water
 above in the closet. Sweetheart, will you come in to break-
 fast ?

Kite. An' she have overheard me now !

Dame. I pray thee, good muss, we stay for you !

Kite. By Heav'n, I would not for a thousand angels.

Dame. What ails you, sweetheart ? are you not well ?
 Speak, good muss.

Kite. Troth, my head aches extremely, on a sudden.

Dame. Oh, the lord !

200

Kite. How now ! what !

Dame. Alas, how it burns ! Muss, keep you warm ; good
 truth it is this new disease ! there's a number troubled
 withal ! For love's sake, sweetheart, come in, out of the air.

Kite. How simple, and how subtle are her answers !
 A new disease, and many troubled with it !
 Why, true ! she heard me, all the world to nothing.

Dame. I pray thee, good sweetheart, come in ; the air will
 do you harm in troth.

Kite. I'll come to you presently ; 'twill away, I hope. 210

Dame. Pray Heav'n it do.

[*Exit Dame.*

Kite. A new disease ! I know not, new or old,
 But it may well be call'd poor mortals plague :
 For, like a pestilence, it doth infect

The houses of the brain. First, it begins
Solely to work upon the phantasy,
Filling her seat with such pestiferous air
As soon corrupts the judgment, and from thence
Sends like contagion to the memory ;
Still to each other giving the infection,
Which, as a subtle vapour, spreads itself
Confusedly through every sensitive part,
Till not a thought, or motion in the mind,
Be free from the black poison of suspect.
Ah, but what misery it is to know this !
Or, knowing it, to want the mind's direction
In such extremes ? Well, I will once more strive,
In spite of this black cloud, myself to be,
And shake the fever off, that thus shakes me.

220

[Exit.

SCENE II.

Moorfields. Enter BRAIN-WORM, disguis'd like a Soldier.

Brain. 'Slid, I cannot chuse but laugh to see myself translated thus, Now must I create an intolerable sort of lies, or my present profession loses the grace ; and yet the lie to a man of my coat, is as ominous a fruit as the Fico. O, sir, it holds for good polity ever, to have that outwardly in vilest estimation that inwardly is most dear to us. So much for my borrow'd shape. Well, the truth is, my old master intends to follow my young, dry-foot, over Moorfields to London this morning : now I, knowing of this hunting match, or rather conspiracy, and to insinuate with my young master, for so must we that are blue-waiters, and men of hope and service, do, have got me afore in this disguise, determining here to lie in ambuscade, and intercept him in the

mid-way. If I can but get his cloak, his purse, his hat, nay, any thing to cut him off, that is, to stay his journey—*Veni, vidi, vici*, I may say with Captain Cæsar; I am made for ever, i'faith. Well, now must I practise to get the true garb of one of those lance-knights, my arm here, and my—Young master! and his cousin, Mr. Stephen, as I am a true counterfeit man of war, and no soldier!

[Retires.]

Enter EDWARD KNO'WELL and Master STEPHEN.

E. Kno. So, sir, and how then, coz?

250

Step. S'foot, I have lost my purse, I think.

E. Kno. How! lost your purse! Where? When had you it?

Step. I cannot tell: stay.

Brain. 'Slid, I am afraid they will know; me would I could get by them!

E. Kno. What! ha' you it?

Step. No, I think I was bewitch'd, I——

E. Kno. Nay, do not weep the loss, hang it, let it go.

Step. Oh, it's here—No, an' it had been lost, I had not car'd, but for a jet ring mistress Mary sent me.

261

E. Kno. A jet ring! oh, the poesy, the poesy!

Step. Fine, i'faith! *Though fancy sleep, my love is deep*; meaning that though I did not fancy her, yet she loved me dearly.

E. Kno. Most excellent!

Step. And then I sent her another, and my poesy was: *The deeper the sweeter, I'll be judg'd by St. Peter.*

E. Kno. How by St. Peter? I do not conceive that.

Step. Marry, St. Peter, to make up the metre.

E. Kno. Well, there the saint was your good Patron; he help'd you at your need: thank him, thank him.

272

Brain. I cannot take leave on 'em so; I will venture come what will. Gentlemen, please you change a few crowns, for a very excellent good blade, here? I am a poor gentleman, a soldier, that, in the better state of my fortunes, scorn'd so mean a refuge, but now it is the humour of necessity to have it so. You seem to be, gentlemen, well affected to martial men, else I should rather die with silence than live with shame: however, vouchsafe to remember, it is my want speaks, not myself. This condition agrees not with my spirit.—

282

E. Kno. Where hast thou served?

Brain. May it please you, sir, in all the late wars of Bohemia, Hungaria, Dalmatia, Poland; where not, sir? I have been a poor servitor by sea and land, any time these fourteen years, and followed the fortunes of the best commanders in Christendom. I was twice shot at the taking of Aleppo, once at the relief of Vienna; I have been at Marseilles, Naples, and the Adriatic Gulf; a gentleman-slave in the galleys thrice, where I was most dangerously shot in the head, through both the thighs, and yet, being thus maim'd, I am void of maintenance; nothing left me but my scars, the noted marks of my resolution.

Step. How will you sell this rapier, friend?

295

Brain. Generous sir, I refer it to your own judgment; you are a gentleman, give me what you please.

Step. True, I am a gentleman, I know that friend: but what though? I pray you say, what would you ask?

Brain. I assure you the blade may become the side or thigh of the best prince in Europe.

E. Kno. Ay, with a velvet scabbard.

Step. Nay, and 't be mine, it shall have a velvet scabbard, coz, that's flat: I'd not wear it as 'tis, an' you would give me an angel.

Brain. At your worship's pleasure, sir; nay, 'tis a most pure Toledo.

Step. I had rather it were a Spaniard; but tell me, what shall I give you for it? An' it had a silver hilt——

E. Kno. Come, come, you shall not buy it; hold, there's a shilling, fellow, take thy rapier. 310

Step. Why, but I will buy it now, because you say so; and there's another shilling, fellow; I scorn to be outbidden. What, shall I walk with a cudgel, like a higgins-bottom, and may have a rapier for money?

E. Kno. You may buy one in the city.

Step. Tut, I'll buy this i' the field, so I will; I have a mind to't because 'tis a field rapier. Tell me your lowest price.

E. Kno. You shall not buy it, I say.

Step. By this money but I will, though I give more than 'tis worth. 321

E. Kno. Come away, you are a fool.

Step. Friend, I am a fool, that's granted: but I'll have it for that word's sake. Follow me for your money.

Brain. At your service, sir. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter KNO'WELL.

Kno. I cannot lose the thought yet of this letter
Sent to my son; nor leave to admire the change
Of manners, and the breeding of our youth
Within the kingdom, since myself was one.
When I was young, he liv'd not in the stews
Durst have conceiv'd a scorn, and utter'd it,
On a grey head: age was authority
Against a buffoon; and a man had then
A certain reverence paid unto his years
That had none due unto his life. 330

But now we are fall'n ; youth from their fear,
 And age from that which bred it, good example.
 Nay, would ourselves were not the first, even parents,
 That did destroy the hopes in our own children ;

“ Or they not learn'd our vices in their cradles, 340

“ And suck'd in our ill customs with their milk :

“ Ere all their teeth be born, or they can speak,

“ We make their palates cunning !” The first words

We form their tongues with, are licentious jests.

Can it call whore ? cry bastard ? O, then kiss it,

A witty child ! Cann't swear ? The father's darling !

Give it two plums. Nay, rather than't shall learn

No bawdy song, the mother herself will teach it !

But this is in the infancy ;

When it puts on the breeches, 350

It will put off all this. Ay, it is like ;

When it is gone into the bone already !

No, no : this die goes deeper than the coat,

Or shirt, or skin ; it stains unto the liver

And heart, in some : and rather than it should not,

Note what we fathers do : look how we live ;

What mistresses we keep ; at what expence ;

And teach them all bad ways to buy affliction !

Well, I thank Heav'n, I never yet was he

That travell'd with my son before sixteen, 360

To shew him the Venetian courtezans,

Nor read the grammar of cheating I had made

To my sharp boy at twelve ; repeating still

The rule, get money, still get money, boy,

No matter by what means.

These are the trades of fathers now. However,

My son, I hope, hath met within my threshold

None of these household precedents ; which are strong

And swift, to rape youth to their precipice.
 But let the house at home be ne'er so clean
 Swept, or kept sweet from filth,
 If he will live abroad with his companions,
 In riot and misrule, 'tis worth a fear.
 "Nor is the danger of conversing less
 "Than all that I have mention'd of example."

370

Enter BRAIN-WORM.

Brain. My master! Nay, faith have at you; I am flesh'd now, I have sped so well; though I must attack you in a different way. Worshipful sir, I beseech you, respect the state of a poor soldier! I am asham'd of this base course of life, (God's my comfort) but extremity provokes me to't: what remedy?
 381

Kno. I have not for you now.

Brain. By the faith I bear unto truth, gentleman, it is no ordinary custom in me, but only to preserve manhood. I protest to you, a man I have been, a man I may be, by your sweet bounty.

Kno. Pr'ythee, good friend, be satisfied.

Brain. Good sir, by that hand you may do the part of a kind gentleman, in lending a poor soldier the price of two cans of beer, a matter of small value; the King of Heav'n shall pay you, and I shall rest thankful: sweet worship—

Kno. Nay, an' you be so importunate—
 329

Brain. Oh, tender sir, need will have his course: I was not made to this vile use! Well, the edge of the enemy could not have abated me so much. [*He weeps.*] It's hard, when a man hath serv'd in his prince's cause, and be thus—Honourable worship, let me derive a small piece of silver from you, it shall not be given in the course of time. By this good ground, I was fain to pawn my rapier last night for a poor

supper; I had suck'd the hilts long before, I am a pagan
else : sweet honour. 401

Kno. Believe me, I am taken with some wonder,
To think a fellow of thy outward presence,
Should, in the frame and fashion of his mind,
Be so degenerate and sordid base !

Art thou a man, and sham'st thou not to beg ?
To practise such a servile kind of life ?

Why, were thy education ne'er so mean,
Having thy limbs, a thousand fairer courses
Offer themselves to thy election. 410

Either the wars might still supply thy wants,
Or service of some virtuous gentleman,
Or honest labour : nay, what can I name,
But would become thee better than to beg ?
But men of thy condition feed on sloth,
As doth the beetle on the dung she breeds in,
Not caring how the metal of your minds
Is eaten with the rust of idleness.

Now, afore me, whate'er he be that should
Relieve a person of thy quality, 420
While thou insist in this loose desperate course,
I would esteem the sin not thine, but his.

Brain. Faith, sir, I would gladly find some other course,
if so——

Kno. Aye, you'd gladly find it, but you will not seek it.

Brain. Alas, sir ! where should a man seek ? In the wars
there's no ascent by desert in these days, but—and for ser-
vice, would it were as soon purchased as wish'd for, (the air's
my comfort) I know what I would say——

Kno. What's thy name ? 430

Brain. Please you, Fitz-Sword, sir.

Kno. Fitz-Sword,
Say that a man should entertain thee now,

Would'st thou be honest, humble, just and true ?

Brain. Sir, by the place and honour of a soldier——

Kno. Nay, nay, I like not those affected oaths !

Speak plainly, man : what think'st thou of my words ?

Brain. Nothing, sir, but wish my fortunes were as happy,
as my service should be honest. 439

Kno. Well, follow me ; I'll prove thee, if thy deeds will
carry a proportion to thy words. [Exit.

Brain. Yes, sir, straight ; I'll but garter my hose. Oh,
that my belly were hoop'd now, for I am ready to burst with
laughing ! Never was a bottle or bagpipe fuller. 'Slid ! was
there ever seen a fox in years to betray himself thus ? Now I
shall be possessed of all his counsels ! and, by that conduct,
my young master. Well, he is resolved to prove my honesty ;
faith, and I am resolved to prove his patience. Oh, I shall
abuse him intolerably ! This small piece of service will bring
him clean out of love with the soldier for ever. He will ne-
ver come within the sight of a red coat, or a musquet-rest
again. It's no matter, let the world think me a bad coun-
terfeit, if I cannot give him the slip at an instant. Why,
this is better than to have staid his journey ! Well, I'll follow
him. Oh, how I long to be employed ! 455

*With change of voice, these scars, and many an oath,
I'll follow son and sire, and serve 'em both.*

[Exit.

ACT III. SCENE I.

Stocks-Market. Enter MATTHEW, WELL-BRED, and BOBADIL.

Matthew.

YES, faith, sir, we were at your lodging to seek you too.

Well. Oh, I came not there to-night.

Bob. Your brother delivered us as much.

Well. Who? My brother, Downright?

Bob. He. Mr. Well-bred, I know not in what kind you hold me; but let me say to you this: as sure as honour, I esteem it so much out of the sunshine of reputation to throw the least beam of regard upon such a——

Well. Sir, I must hear no ill words of my brother. 9

Bob. I protest to you, as I have a thing to be saved about me, I never saw any gentleman-like part——

Well. Good captain, [*faces about*] to some other discourse.

Bob. With your leave, sir, an' there were no more men living upon the face of the earth, I should not fancy him, by St. George.

Mat. Troth, nor I; he is of a rustical cut, I know not how: he doth not carry himself like a gentleman of fashion——

Well. Oh, Mr. Matthew, that's a grace peculiar but to a few, "*quos æquus amavit Jupiter.*"

"*Mat.* I understand you, sir." 20

Enter Young KNO'WELL and STEPHEN.

Well. "No question you do or you do not, sir." Ned! By my soul, welcome! How dost thou, sweet spirit, my genius? 'Slid, I shall love Apollo, and the mad Thespian girls, the better while I live for this, my dear fury. Now I see there's some love in thee! Sirrah, these be the two I writ to thee of. Nay, what a drowsy humour is this now! Why dost thou not speak?

E. Kno. Oh, you are a fine gallant; you sent me a rare letter.

Will. Why, was't not rare? 30

E. Kno. Yes, I'll be sworn, I was never guilty of reading the like. Match it in all Pliny's epistles, and I'll have my judgment burn'd in the ear for a rogue: make much of thy

vein, for it is inimitable. But I marvel what camel it was that had the carriage of it, for doubtless he was no ordinary beast that brought it.

Well. Why?

E. Kno. Why, sayest thou? Why, dost thou think that any reasonable creature, especially in the morning, the sober time of the day too, could have mistaken my father for me?

Well. 'Slid, you jest, I hope.

41

E. Kno. Indeed, the best use we can turn it to, is to make a jest on't now; but, I'll assure you, my father had the full view o' your flourishing style, before I saw it.

Well. What a dull slave was this! But, sirrah, what said he to it, i'faith?

E. Kno. Nay, I know not what he said; but I have a shrewd guess what he thought.

Well. What, what?

E. Kno. Marry, that thou art some strange, dissolute, young fellow, and I not a grain or two better, for keeping thee company.

52

Well. Tut, that thought is like the moon in her last quarter, 'twill change shortly. But, sirrah, I pray thee be acquainted with my two hang-bys here; thou wilt take exceeding pleasure in 'em, if thou hearest 'em once go: my wind-instruments. I'll wind 'em up——But what strange piece of silence is this? The sign of the dumb man.

E. Kno. Oh, sir, a kinsman of mine, one that may make your music the fuller, an' he please; he has his humour, sir.

Well. Oh, what is't, what is't?

61

E. Kno. Nay, I'll neither do your judgment, nor his folly, that wrong, as to prepare your apprehension. I'll leave him to the mercy o' your search, if you can take him so.

Well. Well, Captain Bobadil, Mr. Matthew, I pray you know this gentleman here; he is a friend of mine, and one

that will deserve your affection. I know not your name, sir, but shall be glad of any occasion to render me more familiar to you. 69

Step. My name is Mr. Stephen, sir; I am this gentleman's own cousin, sir: his father is mine uncle, sir; I am somewhat melancholy, but you shall command me, sir, in whatsoever is incident to a gentleman.

Bob. Sir, I must tell you this, I am no general man; but for Mr. Well-bred's sake (you may embrace it at what height of favour you please) I do communicate with you; and conceive you to be a gentleman of some parts. I love few words.

E. Kno. And I fewer, sir. I have scarce enow to thank you. 80

Mat. But are you indeed, sir, so given to it?

[To Mr. Stephen.

Step. Ay, truly, sir, I am mightily given to melancholy.

Mat. Oh, it's your only fine humour, sir; your true melancholy breeds you perfect fine wit, sir: I am melancholy myself divers times, sir; and then do I no more but take a pen and paper presently, and overflow you half a score or a dozen of sonnets at a sitting.

Step. Cousin, it is well; am I melancholy enough?

E. Kno. Oh, ay, excellent!

Well. Captain Bobadil, why muse you so? 90

E. Kno. He is melancholy too.

Bob. Faith, sir, I was thinking of a most honourable piece of service was perform'd, to-morrow, being St. Mark's day, shall be some ten years now.

E. Kno. In what place, captain?

Bob. Why, at the beleag'ring of Strigonium, where, in less than two hours, seven hundred resolute gentlemen, as any were in Europe, lost their lives upon the breach. I'll

tell you, gentlemen, it was the first, but the best leagure, that ever I beheld with these eyes, except the taking of — what do you call it, last year, by the Genoese ; but that (of all others) was the most fatal and dangerous exploit that ever I was ranged in, since I first bore arms before the face of the enemy, as I am a gentleman and a soldier. 104

Step. 'So, I had as lief as an angel, I could swear as well as that gentleman.

E. Kno. Then you were a servitor at both, it seems ; at Strigonium, and what do you call't ?

Bob. Oh, lord, sir ! by St. George, I was the first man that enter'd the breach ; and had I not effected it with resolution, I had been slain, if I had had a million of lives.

E. Kno. 'Twas a pity you had not ten ; a cat's and your own, i'faith. But was it possible ?

Mat. Pray you, mark this discourse, sir.

Step. So I do. 115

Bob. I assure you, upon my reputation, 'tis true, and yourself shall confess.

E. Kno. You must bring me to the rack first.

Bob. Observe me judicially, sweet sir : they had planted me three demi-culverins, just in the mouth of the breach : now, sir, as we were to give on, their master gunner (a man of no mean skill and mark, you must think) confronts me with his linstock, ready to give fire ; I, spying his intendment, discharg'd my petrionel in his bosom, and with these single arms, my poor rapier, ran violently upon the Moors that guarded the ordnance, and put them all peil-mell to the sword.

Well. To the sword ! to the rapier, captain !

E. Kno. Oh, it was a good figure observed, sir ! but did you all this, captain, without hurting your blade ? 130

Bob. Without any impeach o' the earth : you shall perceive, sir. It is the most fortunate weapon that ever rid on

poor gentleman's thigh. Shall I tell you, sir? You talk of Morglay, Excalibur, Durindana, or so! Tut, I lend no credit to that is fabled of 'em; I know the virtue of mine own, and therefore I dare the bolder maintain it.

Step. I marvel whether it be a Toledo, or no.

Bob. A most perfect Toledo, I assure you, sir.

Step. I have a countryman of his here.

Mat. Pray you, let's see, sir. Yes, faith it is! 140

Bob. This, a Toledo! pish.

Step. Why do you pish, captain?

Bob. A Fleming, by Heaven! I'll buy them for a guilder a piece, an' I would have a thousand of them.

E. Kno. How say you, cousin? I told you thus much.

Well. Where bought you it, Mr. Stephen?

Step. Of a scurvy rogue soldier, (a hundred of lice go with him) he swore it was a Toledo.

Bob. A poor provant rapier, no better. 149

Mat. Mass, I think it be, indeed! now I look on't better.

E. Kno. Nay, the longer you look on't the worse. Put it up, put it up!

Step. Well, I will put it up, but by——(I ha' forgot the captain's oath, I thought to have sworn by it)——an' e'er I meet him——

Well. O, 'tis past help now, sir; you must ha' patience.

Step. Whoreson coney-catching rascal! I could eat the very hilts for anger.

E. Kno. A sign of good digestion; you have an ostrich stomach, cousin. 160

Step. A stomach! I would I had him here, you should see an' I had a stomach.

Well. It's better as 'tis. Come, gentlemen, shall we go?

Enter BRAIN-WORM.

E. Kno. A miracle, cousin! look here! look here!

Step. O, god'slid! by your leave, do you know me, sir?

Brain. Ay, sir, I know you by sight.

Step. You sold me a rapier, did you not?

Brain. Yes, marry did I, sir.

Step. You said it was a Toledo, ha?

Brain. True, I did so.

170

Step. But it is none!

Brain. No, sir, I confess it is none.

Step. Do you confess it? Gentlemen, bear witness, he has confest it. By God's will, an you had not confest it——

E. Kno. Oh, cousin, forbear, forbear.

Step. Nay, I have done, cousin.

Well. Why, you have done like a gentleman, he has confest it, what would you more?

Step. Yet, by his leave, he is a rascal, under his favour, do you see,

180

E. Kno. Ay, by his leave he is, and under favour. Pretty piece of civility! Sirrah, how dost like him?

Well. Oh, it's a most precious fool! make much on him. I can compare him to nothing more happily, than a drum; for every one may play upon him.

E. Kno. No, no, a child's whistle were far the fitter.

Brain. Sir, shall I intreat a word with you?

E. Kno. With me, sir! You have not another Toledo to sell, ha' you?

Brain. You are conceited, sir, your name is Mr. Kno'well, as I take it?

191

E. Kno. You are i' the right. You mean not to proceed in the catechism, do you?

Brain. No, sir, I am none of that coat.

E. Kno. Of as bare coat, though! Well, say, sir.

Brain. Faith, sir, I am but a servant to the drum extraordinary, and indeed this smoky varnish being washed of, and

three or four patches remov'd, I appear your worship's in reversion, after the decease of your good father—Brain-worm.

E. Kno. Brain-worm! 'Slight, what breath of a conjurer hath blown thee hither in this shape? 201

Brain. The breath o' your letter, sir, this morning: the same that blew you to the wind-mill, and your father after you.

E. Kno. My father!

Brain. Nay, never start; 'tis true; he has followed you over the fields by the foot, as you would do a hare i' the snow.

E. Kno. Sirrah, Well-bred, what shall we do, sirrah? My father is come over after me. 210

Well. Thy father! Where is he?

Brain. At Justice Clement's house, here, in Coleman-street, where he but stays my return; and then——

Well. Who's this? Brain-worm?

Brain. The same, sir.

Well. Why, how, i' the name of wit, comest thou transmuted thus?

Brain. Faith, a device! a device! Nay, for the love of reason, gentlemen, and avoiding the danger, stand not here, withdraw, and I'll tell you all. 220

E. Kno. Come, cousin.

[*Exeunt*]

SCENE II.

The Warehouse. Enter KITELY and CASH.

Kite. What says he, Thomas? Did you speak with him?

Cash. He will expect you, sir, within this half hour.

Kite. Has he the money ready, can you tell?

Cash. Yes, sir, the money was brought in last night.

Kite. O, that's well: fetch me my cloak, my cloak.
Stay, let me see, an hour to go and come;
Ay, that will be the least; and then 'twill be
An hour before I can dispatch him,
Or very near: well, I will say two hours. 230
Two hours? ha! things, never dreamt of yet,
May be contriv'd, ay, and effected too,
In two hours absence. Well, I will not go.
Two hours! No, fleeing opportunity,
I will not give your subtlety that scope.
Who will not judge him worthy to be robb'd,
That sets his doors wide open to a thief,
And shews the felon where his treasure lies!
Again, what earthly spirit but will attempt
To taste the fruit of beauty's golden tree, 240
When leaden sleep seals up the dragon's eyes?
I will not go. Business, go by for once.
No, beauty, no: you are too, too precious
To be left so, without a guard, or open?
You must be then kept up close, and well watch'd!
For, give you opportunity, no quick-sand
Devours or swallows swifter! He that lends
His wife, if she be fair, or time, or place,
Compels her to be false. I will not go.
The dangers are too many. I am resolv'd for that, 250
Carry in my cloak again. Yet stay. Yet do too.
I will defer going on all occasions.

Cash. Sir, Snare, your scrivener, will be there with the bonds.

Kite. That's true! fool on me! I had clean forgot it! I must go. What's o'clock?

Cash. Exchange time, sir.

Kite. 'Heart, then will Well-bred presently be here too,

With one or other of his loose consorts.

I am a knave, if I know what to say,

260

What course to take, or which way to resolve.

My brain, methinks, is like an hour-glass,

Wherein my imagination runs, like sands,

Filling up time ; but then are turn'd and turn'd ;

So that I know not what to stay upon,

And less to put in act.—It shall be so.

Nay, I dare build upon his secrecy,

He knows not to deceive me. Thomas !

Cash. Sir.

Kite. Yet now, I have bethought too, I will not—

270

Thomas, is Cob within ?

Cash. I think he be, sir.

Kite. But he'll prate too, there's no speech of him.

No, there were no man o' the earth to Thomas,

If I durst trust him ; there is all the doubt.

But should he have a chink in him ; I were gone,

Lost i' my fame for ever : talk for th' exchange.

The manner he hath stood with, 'till this present,

Doth promise no such change ! What should I fear then ?

Well, come what will, I'll tempt my fortune once.

280

Thomas—you may deceive me, but I hope—

Your love to me is more—

Cash. Sir, if a servant's

Duty, with faith, may be call'd love, you are

More than in hope, you are possess'd of it.

Kite. I thank you heartily, Thomas ; gi' me your hand.

With all my heart, good Thomas. I have, Thomas,

A secret to impart to you—but

When once you have it, I must seal your lips up.

So far I tell you, Thomas.

290

Cash. Sir, for that—

Kite. Nay, hear me out. Think, I esteem you, Thomas,
When I will let you in, thus to my private.
It is a thing sits nearer to my crest,
Than thou art aware of, Thomas. If thou should'st
Reveal it, but—

Cash. How ! I reveal it !

Kite. Nay,
I do not think thou would'st ; but if thou should'st,
'Twere a great weakness.

300

Cash. A great treachery.
Give it no other name.

Kite. Thou wilt not do't then ?

Cash. Sir, if I do, mankind disclaim me ever.

Kite. He will not swear ; he has some reservation,
Some conceal'd purpose, and close meaning, sure,
Else, being urg'd so much, how should he choose,
But lend an oath to all this protestation ?
He's no fanatic, I have heard him swear.
What should I think of it ? Urge him again,
And by some other way ? I will do so.
Well, Thomas, thou hast sworn not to disclose ;
Yes, you did swear ?

310

Cash. Not yet, sir, but I will,
Please you—

Kite. No, Thomas, I dare take thy word,
But if thou wilt swear, do, as thou think'st good ;
I am resolv'd without it at thy pleasure.

Cash. By my soul's safety then, sir, I protest
My tongue shall ne'er take knowledge of a word,
Deliver'd me in nature of your trust.

320

Kite. It's too much, these ceremonies need not ;
I know thy faith to be as firm as rock.
Thomas, come hither, near ; we cannot be

Too private in this business. So it is.
 (Now he has sworn, I dare the safelier venture)
 I have of late, by divers observations—
 But whether his oath can bind him, there it is.
 I will bethink me ere I do proceed.

Thomas, it will be now too long to stay, 330
 I'll spy some fitter time soon, or to-morrow.

Cash. Sir, at your pleasure.

Kite. I will think. Give me my cloak. And, Thomas,
 I pray you search the books 'gainst my return,
 For the receipts 'twixt me and Traps.

Cash. I will, sir.

Kite. And hear you, if your mistress's brother, Well-bred,
 Chance to bring hither any gentlemen,
 Ere I come back, let one straight bring me word.

Cash. Very well, sir. 340

Kite. To the Exchange; do you hear?
 Or here in Coleman-street, to Justice Clement's.
 Forget it not, nor be out of the way.

Cash. I will not, sir.

Kite. I pray you have a care on't.
 Or whether he come or no, if any other
 Stranger, or else, fail not to send me word.

Cash. I shall not, sir.

Kite. Be't your special business
 Now to remember it. 350

Cash. Sir, I warrant you.

Kite. But, Thomas, this is not the secret, Thomas, I told
 you of.

Cash. No, sir, I do suppose it.

Kite. Believe me, it is not.

Cash. Sir, I do believe you.

Kite. By Heaven! it is not; that's enough. But, Thomas,

I would not you should utter it, do you see,
 To any creature living ; yet I care not.
 Well, I must hence. Thomas, conceive thus much ; 360
 It was a trial of you, when I meant
 So deep a secret to you : I mean not this,
 But that I have to tell you. This is nothing, this.
 But, Thomas, keep this from my wife, I charge you.
 Lock'd up in silence, midnight, buried here,
 No greater hell than to be slave to fear. [Exit.

Cash. Lock'd up in silence, midnight, buried here.
 Whence should this flood of passion, trow, take head ? ha !
 Best dream no longer of this running humour,
 For fear I sink ! the violence of the stream 370
 Already hath transported me so far,
 That I can feel no ground at all ! But soft,
 Here is company : now must I — [Exit.

Enter WELL-BRED, EDW. KNO'WELL, BRAIN-WORM,
 BOBADIL, and STEPHEN.

Well. Beshrew me, but it was an absolute good jest, and exceedingly well carried.

E. Kno. Ay, and our ignorance maintained it as well, did it not ?

Well. Yes, faith ! but was't possible thou shouldst not know him ? I forgive Mr. Stephen, for he is stupidity it self.

E. Kno. 'Fore Heav'n, not I. " He has so written him-
 " self into the habit of one of your poor infantry, your de-
 " cayed, ruinous, worm-eaten gentlemen of the round."

Well. Why, Brain-worm, who would have thought thou hadst been such an artificer ? 384

E. Kno. An artificer ! an architect ! Except a man had studied begging all his life-time, and been a weaver of lan-

guage from his infancy, for the clothing of it! I never saw his rival.

Well. Where got'st thou this coat, I marvel?

Brain. Of a Houndsditch man, sir, one of the devil's near kinsmen, a broker. 391

Enter CASH.

Cash. Francis! Martin! Ne'er a one to be found now? What a spite's this?

Well. How now, Thomas, is my brother Kitely within?

Cash. No, sir; my master went forth, e'en now; but Master Down-right is within. Cob! what Cob! Is he gone too?

Well. Whither went your master, Thomas, canst thou tell? 399

Cash. I know not; to Justice Clement's, I think, sir. Cob! [Exit Cash.]

E. Kno. Justice Clement! What's he?

Well. Why, dost thou not know him? He is a city magistrate, a justice here; an excellent good lawyer, and a great scholar: but the only mad and merry old fellow in Europe! I shewed you him the other day.

E. Kno. Oh, is that he! I remember him now. Good faith! and he has a very strange presence, methinks; it shews as if he stood out of the rank from other men. I have heard many of his jests i' the university. They say, he will commit a man for taking the wall of his horse. 411

Well. Ay, or wearing his cloak on one shoulder, or serving of God. Any thing indeed, if it come in the way of his humour.

Enter CASH.

Cash. Gasper, Martin, Cob! 'Heart! where should they be, trow?

Bob. Master Kitley's man, pr'ythee vouchsafe us the lighting of this match.

Cash. Fire on your match, no time but now to vouchsafe!

[*Aside.*] Francis! Cob!

420

Bob. Body of me! Here's the remainder of seven pound since yesterday was seven-night. 'Tis your right Trinidado! Did you never take any, Master Stephen?

Step. No, truly, sir! but I'll learn to take it now, since you commend it so.

Bob. Sir, believe me, upon my relation, for what I tell you the world shall not reprove. I have been in the Indies, where this herb grows, where neither myself, nor a dozen gentlemen more, of my knowledge, have received the taste of any other nutriment in the world for the space of one and twenty weeks, but the fume of this simple only. Therefore it cannot be but 'tis most divine, especially your Trinidado. Your Nicotian is good too. I do hold it, and will affirm it before any prince in Europe, to be the most sovereign and precious weed that ever the earth tendered to the use of man.

E. Kno. This speech would have done decently in a tobacco-trader's mouth.

Enter CASH and COB.

Cash. At Justice Clement's he is, in the middle of Coleman-street.

440

Cob. O, ho!

Bob. Where's the match I gave thee, Master Kitley's man?

Cash. Here it is, sir.

Cob. By God's-me! I marvel what pleasure or felicity they have in taking this roguish tobacco! it's good for nothing but to choke a man, and to fill him full of smoke and embers.

[*Bob beats him with a cudgel, Mat. runs away.*]

All. Oh, good captain! hold! hold!

Bob. You base scullion, you.

450

Cash. Come, thou must need be talking too; thou'rt well enough serv'd.

Cob. Well, it shall be a dear beating, an' I live! I will have justice for this.

Bob. Do you prate? Do you murmur? [*Bob beats him off.*]

E. Kno. Nay, good captain, will you regard the humour of a fool?

Bob. A whoreson filthy slave, a dung-worm, an excrement! Body o' Cæsar, but that I scorn to let forth so mean a spirit, I'd have stabb'd him to the earth.

460

Well. Marry, the law forbid, sir.

Bob. By Pharaoh's foot, I would have done it. [*Exit.*]

Step. Oh, he swears admirably! By Pharaoh's foot, body of Cæsar; I shall never do it, sure; upon mine honour, and by St. George; no, I han't the right grace.

Well. But soft; where's Mr. Matthew? gone!

Brain. No, sir, they went in here.

Well. O, let's follow them: Master Matthew is gone to salute his mistress in verse. We shall have the happiness to hear some of his poetry now. He never comes unfurnish'd. Brain-worm!

471

Step. Brain-worm! Where? Is this Brain-worm?

E. Kno. Ay, cousin, no words of it upon your gentility.

Step. Not I, body of me! by this air, St. George, and the foot of Pharaoh!

Well. Rare! your cousin's discourse is simply drawn out with oaths.

E. Kno. 'Tis larded with 'em. A kind of French dressing, if you love it. Come, let's in. Come, cousin. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

A Hall in Justice CLEMENT's House. Enter KITELY and COB.

Kite. Ha! how many are there, say'st thou? 480

Cob. Marry, sir, your brother, Master Well-bred—

Kite. Tut, beside him: what strangers are there, man?

Cob. Strangers! let me see: one, two; mass, I know not well, there are so many.

Kite. How, so many!

Cob. Ay, there's some five or six of them, at the most.

Kite. A swarm, a swarm!

Spite of the devil! how they sting my head

With forked stings, thus wide and large! But Cob,

How long hast thou been coming hither, Cob? 490

Cob. A little while, sir.

Kite. Didst thou come running?

Cob. No, sir.

Kite. Nay, then I am familiar with thy haste!

Bane to my fortunes. What meant I to marry?

I, that before was rank'd in such content,

My mind at rest too in so soft a peace,

Being free master of my own free thoughts,

And now become a slave? What, never sigh!

Be of good cheer, man, for thou art a cuckold. 500

'Tis done, 'tis done! Nay, when such flowing store,

Plenty itself falls into my wife's lap,

The cornucopia will be mine, I know. But, Cob,

What entertainment had they? I am sure

My sister and my wife would bid them welcome! Ha!

Cob. Like enough, sir; yet I heard not a word of it.

Kite. No; their lips were seal'd with kisses, and the voice,

Drown'd in a flood of joy at their arrival,
Had lost her motion, state and faculty.

Cob, which of them was't that first kiss'd my wife? 510

My sister, I should say, my wife, alas!

I fear not her. Ha! Who was it, say'st thou?

Cob. By my troth, sir, will you have the truth of it?

Kite. Ay, good Cob, I pray thee heartily.

Cob. Then I am a vagabond, and fitter for bridewell than your worship's company, if I saw any body to be kiss'd unless they would have kiss'd the post in the middle of the warehouse; for there I left 'em all, at their tobacco, with a pox!

Kite. How! were they not gone in then, ere thou cam'st?

Cob. O, no, sir! 521

Kite. Spite o' the devil! What do I stay here then?

Cob, follow me. [Exit.

"*Cob.* Nay, soft and fair, I have eggs on the spit. Now
"am I for some five and fifty reasons hammering, hammer-
"ing revenge! Nay, an' he had not lain in my house,
" 'twould never have grieved me, but, being my guest, one
"that I'll be sworn I loved and trusted; and he to turn
"monster of ingratitude, and strike his lawful host! Well,
"I hope to raise up an host of fury for't. I'll to Justice
"Clement for a warrant. Strike his lawful host!" [Exit.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

A Room in KITELY's House. Enter DOWNRIGHT and Dame KITELY.

Downright.

WELL, sister, I tell you true; and you'll find it so, in the end.

Dame. Alas, brother, what would you have me to do? I

cannot help it. You see my brother brings 'em in here, they are his friends. 5

Dow. His friends! his friends! 'Slud, they do nothing but haunt him up and down, like a sort of unlucky spirits, and tempt him to all manner of villany that can be thought of. Well, by this light, a little thing would make me play the devil with some of 'em. And 'twere not more for your husband's sake, than any thing else, I'd make the house too hot for the best on 'em. They should say, and swear, hell were broken loose ere they went hence. But, by God's will, 'tis nobody's fault but yours; for an' you had done as you might have done, they should have been parboil'd and bak'd too, every mother's son, ere they should ha' come in e'er a one of 'em. 17

Dame. God's my life! did you ever hear the like? What a strange man is this! Could I keep out all them, think you? I should put myself against half a dozen men, should I? Good faith, you'd mad the patient'st body in the world to hear you talk so without any sense or reason!

Enter Mrs. BRIDGET, Mr. MATTHEW, WELL-BRED, STEPHEN, EDWARD KNO'WELL, BOBADIL, and CASH.

Bridg. Servant, in troth, you are too prodigal
Of your wit's treasure, thus to pour it forth
Upon so mean a subject as my worth.

Mat. You say well, mistress; and I mean as well.

Dow. Hey-day, here is stuff!

Well. O, now stand close. Pray Heav'n she can get him to read; he should do it of his own natural impudence.

Bridg. Servant, what is this same, I pray you? 30

Mat. Marry, an elegy! an elegy! an odd toy—I'll read it, if you please.

Bridg. Pray you do, servant.

Dow. O, here's no foppery! Death! I can endure the stocks better.

E. Kno. What ails thy brother? Can he not bear the reading of a ballad?

Well. O, no! a rhyme to him is worse than cheese or a bagpipe. But, mark, you lose the protestation. 39

Bob. Master Matthew, you abuse the expectation of your dear mistress, and her fair sister. Fie, while you live, avoid this prolixity.

Mat. I shall, sir.

*Rare creature, let me speak without offence,
Would Heav'n my rude words had the influence
To rule thy thoughts, as thy fair looks do mine,
Then shouldst thou be his prisoner, who is thine.*

[Master Stephen answers with shaking his head.]

E. Kno. 'Slight, he shakes his head like a bottle, to feel an' there be any brain in it! 49

Well. Sister, what ha' you here? Verses? Pray you, let's see. Who made these verses? They are excellent good.

Mat. O, Master Well-bred, 'tis your disposition to say so, sir. They were good i' the morning; I made 'em extempore this morning.

Well. How, extempore!

Mat. I would I might be hanged else; ask Captain Bobadil. He saw me write them at the——(pox on it) the Star yonder.

Step. Cousin, how do you like this gentleman's verses?

E. Kno. O, admirable! the best that I ever heard, coz!

Step. Body o' Cæsar! they are admirable! 61
The best that ever I heard, as I am a soldier.

Dow. I am vext, I can hold ne'er a bone of me still! 'Heart, I think they mean to build and breed here.

Well. Sister Kately, I marvel you get you not a servant that can rhyme, and do tricks too.

Dow. Oh, monster ! Impudence itself, tricks ! Come, you might practise your ruffian tricks somewhere else, and not here, I wuss. This is no tavern, nor drinking-school, to vent your exploits in.

Well. How now ! whose cow has calv'd ?

71

Dow. Marry, that has mine, sir. Nay, boy, never look askance at me for the matter ; I'll tell you of it ; aye, sir, you and your companions ; mend yourselves, when I ha' done.

Well. My companions !

Dow. Yes, sir, your companions, so I say ; I am not afraid of you nor them neither, your hang-bys here. You must have your poets, and your potlings, your soldados and foolados, to follow you up and down the city, and here they must come to domineer and swagger. Sirrah, you ballad-singer ; and slops, your fellow there, get you out ; get you home ; or, by this steel, I'll cut off your ears, and that presently. 83

Well. 'Slight, stay, let's see what he dare do. Cut off his ears ! cut a whetstone. You are an ass, do you see ; touch any man here, and by this hand, I'll run my rapier, to the hilts in you.

Dow. Yea, that would I fain see, boy.

[They all draw, and they of the house make out to part them.]

Dame. O, Jesu ! murder ! Thomas, Gasper !

Bridg. Help, help, Thomas.

E. Kno. Gentlemen, forbear, I pray you.

91

Bob. Well, sirrah ! you Holofernes ! by my hand, I will pink your flesh full of holes with my rapier, for this ; I will, by this good Heav'n. Nay, let him come, gentlemen, by the body of St. George, I'll not kill him.

[They offer to fight again, and are parted.]

Cash. Hold, hold, good gentlemen.

Dow. You whoreson, bragging coistril!

Enter KITELY.

Kite. Why, how now, what's the matter? What's the stir here?

Put up your weapons, and put off this rage.

My wife and sister, they're the cause of this.

What, Thomas, where is the knave?

101

Cash. Here, sir.

Well. Come, let's go; this is one of my brother's ancient humours, this.

[*Exit.*

Step. I am glad nobody was hurt by his ancient humour.

[*Exit.*

Kite. Why, how now, brother, who enforc'd this brawl!

Dow. A sort of lewd rake-hells, that care neither for God nor the devil. And they must come here to read ballads, and roguery, and trash! I'll mar the knot of 'em ere I sleep, perhaps; especially Bob there: he that's all manner of shapes: and songs and sonnets, his fellow. But I'll follow 'em.

[*Exit.*

Bridg. Brother, indeed you are too violent,
Too sudden in your humour.

113

There was one a civil gentleman,
And very worthily demean'd himself.

Kite. O, that was some love of yours, sister.

Bridg. A love of mine? I would it were no worse, brother!
You'd pay my portion sooner than you think for.

[*Exit.*

Dame. Indeed, he seem'd to be a gentleman of exceeding fair disposition, and of very excellent good parts. What a coil and stir is here!

[*Exit.*

Kite. Her love, by Heav'n! my wife's minion!
Death, these phrases are intolerable!

123

Well, well, well, well, well, well!

It is too plain, too clear. Thomas, come hither.

What, are they gone?

Cash. Ay, sir, they went in.

My mistress, and your sister—

Kite. Are any of the gallants within?

Cash. No, sir, they are all gone.

131

Kite. Art thou sure of it?

Cash. I can assure you, sir.

Kite. What gentleman was it that they prais'd so, Thomas?

Cash. One, they call him Master Kno'well, a handsome young gentleman, sir.

Kite. Ay, I thought so. My mind gave me as much. I'll die but they have hid him in the house somewhere; I'll go and search. Go with me, Thomas, Be true to me, and thou shalt find me a master. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Moorfields. Enter E. KNO'WELL, WELL-BRED, and BRAIN-WORM.

E. Kno. Well, Brain-worm, perform this business happily, and thou makest a purchase of my love for ever.

143

Well. I'faith, now let thy spirits use their best faculties; but, at my hand, remember the message to my brother; for there's no other means to start him out of his house.

Brain. I warrant you, sir, fear nothing. I have a nimble soul has waked all forces of my phant'sy by this time, and put 'em in true motion. What you have possessed me withal, I'll discharge it amply, sir. Make it no question.

[*Exit.*]

Well. Forth, and prosper, Brain-worm. Faith, Ned, how dost thou approve of my abilities in this device? 152

E. Kno. Troth, well, howsoever: but it will come excellent if it take.

Well. Take, man! why, it cannot choose but take, if the circumstances miscarry not. But tell me ingenuously, dost thou affect my sister Bridget as thou pretend'st?

E. Kno. Friend, am I worth belief?

Well. Come, do not protest. In faith, she is a maid of good ornament, and much modesty; and, except I conceiv'd very worthily of her, thou shouldst not have her. 161

E. Kno. Nay, that I am afraid will be a question yet, whether I shall have her or no.

Well. 'Slid, thou shalt have her; by this light thou shalt.

E. Kno. Nay, do not swear.

Well. By this hand thou shalt have her. I'll go fetch her presently. Point but where to meet, and, as I am an honest man, I'll bring her.

E. Kno. Hold, hold; be temperate.

Well. Why, by—what shall I swear by? thou shalt have her, as I am— 171

E. Kno. 'Pray thee be at peace, I am satisfied; and do believe thou wilt omit no offered occasion to make my desires complete.

Well. Thou shalt see, and know I will not. [Exeunt.]

Enter FORMAL and KNO'WELL.

Form. Was your man a soldier, sir?

Kno. Aye, a knave, I took him begging o' the way, This morning, as I came over Moorfields.

Enter BRAIN-WORM.

O, here he is! you have made fair speed, believe me.

Where i' the name of sloth could you be thus——

Brain. Marry, peace be my comfort, where I thought I should have had little comfort of your worship's service. 182

Kno. How so?

Brain. O, sir! your coming to the city, your entertainment of me, and your sending me to watch—indeed, all the circumstances either of your charge or my employment, are as open to your son as to yourself.

Kno. How should that be! unless that villain Brain-worm Have told him of the letter, and discovered All that I strictly charg'd him to conceal! 'Tis so!

Brain. I am partly o' that faith, 'tis so indeed. 191

Kno. But how should he know you to be my man?

Brain. Nay, sir, I cannot tell; unless it be by the black art! Is not your son a scholar, sir?

Kno. Yes, but I hope his soul is not allied
Unto such hellish practice: if it were,
I had just cause to weep my part in him,
And curse the time of his creation.

But where didst thou find them, Fitz-Sword? 199

Brain. You should rather ask, where they found me, sir; for I'll be sworn I was going along in the street, thinking nothing, when (of a sudden) a voice calls, Mr. Kno'well's man: another cries, soldier; and thus, half a dozen of 'em, till they had called me within a house, where I no sooner came, but out flew all their rapiers at my bosom, with some three or fourscore oaths to accompany 'em, and all to tell me, I was a dead man if I did not confess where you were, and how I was employed, and about what, which, when they could not get out of me (as I protest they must have dissected me, and made an anatomy of me first, and so I told 'em) they locked me up into a room i' the top of a high house, whence, by great miracle, having a light heart, I slid down

by a bottom of packthread into the street, and so 'scaped. But, sir, thus much I can assure you; for I heard it while I was lock'd up; there were a great many rich merchants and brave citizens wives with 'em at a feast, and your son, Mr. Edward, withdrew with one of 'em, and has 'pointed to meet her anon, at one Cob's house, a water-bearer, that dwells by the wall. Now, there your worship shall be sure to take him, for there he preys, and fail he will not.

220

Kno. Nor will I fail to break his match I doubt not.

Go thou along with justice Clement's man,

And stay there for me. At one Cob's house say'st thou?

Brain. Aye, sir, there you shall have him. [*Exit Kno'well.*] Yes, invisible! Much wench, or much son! 'Slight, when he has staid there three or four hours, travelling with the expectation of wonders, and at length be delivered of air! O, the sport that I should then take to look on him, if I durst! But now I mean to appear no more before him in this shape. I have another trick to act yet. Sir, I make you stay somewhat long.

231

Form. Not a whit, sir.

You have been lately in the wars, sir, it seems.

Brain. Marry have I, sir, to my loss, and expence of all, almost—

Form. Troth, sir, I would be glad to bestow a bottle of wine o' you, if it please you to accept it—

Brain. O, sir—

Form. But to hear the manner of your services and your devices in the wars; they say they be very strange, and not like those a man reads in the Roman histories, or sees at Mile-End.

242

Brain. No, I assure you, sir; why, at any time when it please you, I shall be ready to discourse with you all I know, and more too somewhat.

Form. No better time than now, sir. We'll go to the Windmill, there we shall have a cup of neat grist, as we call it. I pray you, sir, let me request you to the Windmill.

Brain. I'll follow you, sir, and make grist o' you, if I have good luck. [Exeunt.

Enter MATTHEW, EDW. KNO'WELL, BOBADIL, and
STEPHEN.

Mat. Sir, did your eyes ever taste the like clown of him, where we were to-day, Mr. Well-bred's half brother? I think the whole earth cannot shew his parallel, by this daylight. 254

E. Kno. We are now speaking of him. Captain Bobadil tells me he is fallen foul o' you too.

Mat. O, aye, sir! he threatened me with the bastinado.

Bob. Aye, but I think I taught you prevention this morning for that—You shall kill him beyond question, if you be so generously minded.

Mat. Indeed, it is a most excellent trick! 261

Bob. O, you do not give spirit enough to your motion, you are too tardy, too heavy! O, it must be done like lightning; hey!

[He practises at a post.

Mat. Rare captain!

Bob. Tut, 'tis nothing, an't be not done in a—punto!

E. Kno. Captain, did you ever prove yourself upon any of our masters of defence here?

Mat. O, good sir! yes, I hope he has. 269

Bob. I will tell you, sir. They have assaulted me some three, four, five, six of them together, as I have walked alone in divers skirts o' the town, where I have driven them before me the whole length of a street, in the open view of all our gallants, pitying to hurt them, believe me. Yet all this lenity will not overcome their spleen; they will be doing

with the pismire, raising a hill, a man may spurn abroad with his foot at pleasure. By myself I could have slain them all, but I delight not in murder. I am loth to bear any other than this bastinado for 'em; yet I hold it good policy not to go disarmed, for though I be skilful, I may be oppressed with multitudes. 281

E. Kno. Aye, believe me, may you, sir; and, in my conceit, our whole nation should sustain the loss by it, if it were so.

Bob. Alas, no! What's a peculiar man to a nation? Not seen.

E. Kno. O, but your skill, sir!

Bob. Indeed, that might be some loss; but who respects it? I will tell you, sir, by the way of private, and under seal, I am a gentleman, and live here obscure, and to myself: but, were I known to his majesty, and the lords observe me, I would undertake, upon this poor head and life, for the public benefit of the state, not only to spare the entire lives of his subjects in general, but to save the one half, nay, three parts of his yearly charge in holding war, and against what enemy soever. And how would I do it, think you?

E. Kno. Nay, I know not, nor can I conceive. 297

Bob. Why thus, sir. I would select nineteen more to myself, throughout the land; gentlemen they should be, of good spirit, strong and able constitution; I would choose them by an instinct, a character that I have; and I would teach these nineteen the special rules, as your Punto, your Reverso, your Stoccata, your Imbroccata, your Passada, your Montonto! till they could all play very near, or altogether, as well as myself. This done, say the enemy were forty thousand strong, we twenty would come into the field the tenth of March, or thereabouts; and we would challenge twenty of the enemy; they could not, in their honour, refuse

us ! Well, we would kill them ; challenge twenty more, kill them ; twenty more, kill them ; twenty more, kill them too ; and thus would we kill every man his twenty a day ; that's twenty score ; twenty score, that's two hundred ; two hundred a day, five days a thousand ; forty thousand ; forty times five, five times forty, two hundred days, kill them all up by computation. And this I will venture my poor gentleman-like carcase to perform, provided there be no treason practised upon us, by fair and discreet manhood, that is, civilly by the sword.

E. Kno. Why are you so sure of your hand, captain, at all times ?

320

Bob. Tut, never miss thrust, upon my reputation with you.

E. Kno. I would not stand in Downright's state then, an' you meet him, for the wealth of any one street in London.

Bob. Why, sir, you mistake ! If he were here now, by this welkin I would not draw my weapon on him ! Let this gentleman do his mind : but I will bastinado him, by the bright sun, wherever I meet him.

Mat. Faith, and I'll have a fling at him, at my distance.

Enter DOWNRIGHT, walking over the Stage.

E. Kno. God's so ! look ye where he is ; yonder he goes.

Dow. What peevish luck have I, I cannot meet with these bragging rascals !

332

Bob. It's not he, is it ?

E. Kno. Yes, faith it is he !

Mat. I'll be hang'd then, if that were he.

E. Kno. I assure you that was he.

Step. Upon my reputation, it was he.

Bob. Had I thought it had been he, he must not have gone so : but I can hardly be induced to believe it was he yet.

E. Kno. That I think, sir. But see, he is come again!

Dow. O, Pharoah's foot! have I found you? Come, draw; to your tools. Draw, gipsey, or I'll thresh you.

Bob. Gentleman of valour, I do believe in thee—hear me——

Dow. Draw your weapon, then.

345

Bob. Tall man, I never thought on't till now; body of me! I had a warrant of the peace served on me even now, as I came along, by a water-bearer; this gentleman saw it, Mr. Matthew.

[*He beats him and disarms him, Matthew runs away.*]

Dow. 'Sdeath, you will not draw, then?

Bob. Hold, hold, under thy favour, forbear.

Dow. Prate again, as you like this, you whoreson foist, you. You'll control the point, you! Your consort is gone; had he staid, he had shared with you, sir. [Exit Dow.]

E. Kno. Twenty, and kill 'em; twenty more, kill them too. Ha, ha!

Bob. Well, gentlemen, bear witness, I was bound to the peace by this good day.

358

E. Kno. No, faith, it's an ill day, captain, never reckon it other: but say you were bound to the peace, the law allows you to defend yourself; that will prove but a poor excuse.

Bob. I cannot tell, sir. I desire good construction, in fair sort. I never sustained the like disgrace, by Heaven. Sure I was struck with a planet thence, for I had no power to touch my weapon.

E. Kno. Ay, like enough, I have heard of many that have been beaten under a planet. Go, get you to a surgeon. 'Slid, an' these be your tricks, your passados and your montantos, I'll none of them.

370

Bob. I was planet-struck, certainly.

[Exit.]

E. Kno. O, manners! that this age should bring forth such creatures! that nature should be at leisure to make 'em! Come, coz.

Step. Mass, I'll have this cloak.

E. Kno. God's will, 'tis Downright's.

Step. Nay, it's mine now: another might have ta'en it up as well as I. I'll wear it, so I will.

E. Kno. How, an' he see it! He'll challenge it, assure yourself. 380

Step. Aye, but he shall not ha't; I'll say I bought it.

E. Kno. Take heed you buy it not too dear, coz.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

A Chamber in KITELY's House. Enter KITELY and CASH.

Kite. Art thou sure, Thomas, we have pry'd into all and every part throughout the house? Is there no by-place, or dark corner, has escaped our searches?

Cash. Indeed, sir, none; there's not a hole or nook unsearched by us, from the upper loft unto the cellar.

Kite. They have convey'd him then away, or hid him in some privacy of their own—Whilst we were searching of the dark closet by my sister's chamber, did'st thou not think thou heard'st a rustling on the other side, and a soft tread of feet? 392

Cash. Upon my truth, I did not, sir; or if you did, it might be only the vermine in the wainscot; the house is old, and over-run with 'em.

Kite. It is, indeed, Thomas—we should bane these rats—Dost thou understand me—we will—they shall not harbour here; I'll cleanse my house from 'em, if fire or poison can

effect it—I will not be tormented thus—They know my brain, and burrow in my heart—I cannot bear it. 400

Cash. I do not understand you, sir! Good now, what is't disturbs you thus? Pray be composed; these starts of passion have some cause, I fear, that touches you more nearly.

Kite. Sorely, sorely, Thomas—it cleaves too close to me—Oh, me—[*Sighs.*] Lend me thy arm—so, good Cash.

Cash. You tremble and look pale! Let me call assistance.

Kite. Not for ten thousand worlds—Alas! alas! 'tis not in medicine to give me ease—here, here it lies.

Cash. What, sir?

409

Kite. Why—nothing, nothing—I am not sick, yet more than dead; I have a burning fever in my mind, and long for that, which having, would destroy me.

Cash. Believe me, 'tis your fancy's imposition; shut up your generous mind from such intruders—I'll hazard all my growing favour with you; I'll stake my present, my future welfare, that some base whispering knave, nay, pardon me, sir, hath, in the best and richest soil, sown seeds of rank and evil nature! O, my master, should they take root—

[*Laughing within.*

Kite. Hark! hark! dost thou not hear? what think'st thou now? Are they not laughing at me? They are, they are. They have deceived the wittol, and thus they triumph in their infamy—This aggravation is not to be borne.—[*Laughing again.*] Hark, again!—Cash, do thou unseen steal in upon 'em, and listen to their wanton conference.

Cash. I shall obey you, though against my will. [*Exit.*

Kite. Against his will! Ha! it may be so—He's young, and may be bribed for them—they've various means to draw the unwary in; if it be so, I'm lost, deceived, betrayed, and my bosom, my full-fraught bosom is unlock'd, and opened to mockery and laughter! Heaven forbid! He cannot be

that viper; sting the hand that raised and cherish'd him! was this stroke added, I should be cursed—But it cannot be—no, it cannot be.

433

Enter CASH.

Cash. You are musing, sir.

Kite. I ask your pardon, Cash—ask me not why—I have wrong'd you, and am sorry—'tis gone.

Cash. If you suspect my faith—

Kite. I do not—say no more—and for my sake let it die and be forgotten—Have you seen your mistress, and heard—whence was that noise?

440

Cash. Your brother, Master Well-bred, is with 'em, and I found 'em throwing out their mirth on a very truly ridiculous subject; it is one Formal, as he stiles himself, and he appertains, so he phrases it, to Justice Clement, and would speak with you.

Kite. With me! Art thou sure it is the justice's clerk? Where is he?

Enter BRAIN-WORM as FORMAL.

Who are you, friend?

Brain. An appendix to Justice Clement, vulgarly called his clerk.

450

Kite. What are your wants with me?

Brain. None.

Kite. Do you not want to speak with me?

Brain. No, but my master does.

Kite. What are the justice's commands?

Brain. He doth not command, but intreats Master Kite to be with him directly, having matters of some moment to communicate unto him.

Kite. What can it be? Say, I'll be with him instantly,

and if your legs, friend, go no faster than your tongue, I shall be there before you.

461

Brain. I will. Vale.

[Exit.

Kite. 'Tis a precious fool, indeed!—I must go forth—But first, come hither, Thomas—I have admitted thee into the close recesses of my heart, and shewed thee all my frailties, passions, every thing.—

Be careful of thy promise, keep good watch.

Wilt thou be true, my Thomas?

Cash. As truth's self, sir——

But be assured you're heaping care and trouble

470

Upon a sandy base; ill-plac'd suspicion

Recoils upon yourself—She's chaste as comely!

Believe 't she is—Let her not note your humour;

Disperse the gloom upon your brow, and be

As clear as her unsullied honour.

Kite. I will then, Cash—thou comfort'st me—I'll drive these

Fiend-like fancies from me, and be myself again.

Think'st thou she has perceived my folly? 'Twere

Happy if she had not—She has not—

They who know no evil, will suspect none.

480

Cash. True, sir! nor has your mind a blemish now.

This change has gladdened me—Here's my mistress,

And the rest, settle your reason to accost 'em.

Kite. I will, Cash, I will——

Enter WELL-BRED, Dame KITELY, and BRIDGET.

Well. What are you plotting, brother Kite,

That thus of late you muse alone, and bear

Such weighty care upon your pensive brow?

[Laughs.

Kite. My care is all for you, good sneering brother,

And well I wish you'd take some wholesome counsel,

And curb your headstrong humours; trust me, brother, 490
 You were to blame to raise commotions here,
 And hurt the peace and order of my house.

Well. No harm, done, brother, I warrant you.
 Since there is no harm done, anger costs
 A man nothing, and a brave man is never
 His own man 'till he be angry—To keep
 His valour in obscurity, is to keep himself,
 As it were, in a cloak-bag. What's a brave
 Musician unless he play?

What's a brave man unless he fight? 500

Dame. Aye, but what harm might have come of it, brother?

Well. What, school'd on both sides! Pr'ythee,
 Bridget, save me from the rod and lecture.

[*Bridget and Well-bred retire.*]

Kite. With what a decent modesty she rates him!
 My heart's at ease, and she shall see it is—
 How art thou, wife? Thou look'st both gay and comely,
 In troth, thou dost—I'm sent for out, my dear,
 But I shall soon return—Indeed, my life,
 Business that forces me abroad, grows irksome. 510
 I cou'd content me with less gain and 'vantage,
 To have thee more at home, indeed I cou'd.

Dame. Your doubts, as well as love, may breed these thoughts.

Kite. That jar untunes me. [Aside.]

What dost thou say? Doubt thee?
 I should as soon suspect myself—No, no,
 My confidence is rooted in thy merit,
 So fixt and settled, that, wert thou inclin'd
 To masks, to sports, and balls, where lusty youth 520
 Leads up the wanton dance, and the rais'd pulse

Beats quicker measures, yet I could with joy,
With heart's ease and security—not but
I had rather thou shouldst prefer thy home,
And me, to toys and such like vanities.

Dame. But sure, my dear,
A wife may moderately more use these pleasures,
Which numbers, and the time give sanction to,
Without the smallest blemish on her name.

Kite. And so she may—And I'll go with thee, child, 530
I will indeed—I'll lead thee there myself,
And be the foremost reveller.—I'll silence
The sneers of envy, stop the tongue of slander;
Nor will I more be pointed at as one
Disturb'd with jealousy——

Dame. Why, were you ever so?

Kite. What!—Ha! never—ha, ha, ha!
She stabs me home. [*Aside.*]—Jealous of thee!
No, do not believe it—Speak low, my love,
Thy brother will overhear us—No, no, my dear, 540
It cou'd not be, it could not be—for—for—
What is the time now?—I shall be too late—
No, no, thou may'st be satisfy'd
There's not the smallest spark remaining—
Remaining! What do I say? There never was,
Nor can, nor ever shall be—so be satisfy'd—
Is Cob within there? Give me a kiss,
My dear; there, there, now we are reconcil'd—
I'll be back immediately—Good-bye, good-bye—
Ha, ha! jealous, I shall burst my sides with laughing. 550
Ha, ha! Cob, where are you, Cob? Ha, ha!— [*Exit.*

[*Well-bred and Bridget come forward.*

Well. What have you done to make your husband part so
merry from you? He has of late been little given to laughter.

Dame. He laughed indeed, but seemingly without mirth. His behaviour is new and strange. He is much agitated, and has some whimsy in his head, that puzzles mine to read it.

Well. 'Tis jealousy, good sister, and writ so largely, that the blind may read it; have you not perceived it yet? 559

Dame. If I have, 'tis not always prudent that my tongue should betray my eyes; so far my wisdom tends, good brother, and little more I boast—But what makes him ever calling for Cob so? I wonder how he can employ him.

Well. Indeed, sister, to ask how he employs Cob, is a necessary question for you, that are his wife, and a thing not very easy for you to be satisfy'd in—But this I'll assure you, Cob's wife is an excellent bawd, sister, and oftentimes your husband haunts her house; marry, to what end I cannot altogether accuse him. Imagine you what you think convenient. But I have known fair hides have foul hearts ere now, sister.

Dame. Never said you truer than that, brother; so much I can tell you for your learning. O, ho! is this the fruit of's jealousy? I thought some game was in the wind, he acted so much tenderness but now, but I'll be quit with him. Thomas!

575

Enter CASH.

Fetch your hat, and go with me; I'll get my hood, and out the backward-way. I would to fortune I cou'd take him there, I'd return him his own, I warrant him! I'd fit him for his jealousy!

[*Exeunt.*

Well. Ha, ha! so e'en let them go; this may make sport anon.—What, Brain-worm?

Enter BRAIN-WORM.

Brain. I saw the merchant turn the corner, and came back to tell you, all goes well, wind and tide, my master.

Well. But how got'st thou this apparel of the justice's man? 585

Brain. Marry, sir, my proper fine penman would needs bestow the grist o' me at the Windmill, to hear some martial discourse, where I so marshalled him, that I made him drunk with admiration; and because too much heat was the cause of his distemper, I stript him stark naked, as he lay along asleep, and borrow'd his suit to deliver this counterfeit message in, leaving a rusty armour, and an old brown bill, to watch him 'till my return; which shall be, when I have pawned his apparel, and spent the better part of the money, perhaps. 595

Well. Well, thou art a successful merry knave, Brainworm; his absence will be subject for more mirth. I pray thee return to thy young master, and will him to meet me and my sister Bridget at the Tower instantly; for here, tell him the house is so stored with jealousy, there is no room for love to stand upright in. We must get our fortunes committed to some large prison, say: and then the Tower, I know no better air, nor where the liberry of the house may do us more present service. Away. [*Exit Brain.*]

Bridg. What, is this the engine that you told me of? What farther meaning have you in the plot?

Well. That you may know, fair sister-in-law, how happy a thing it is to be fair and beautiful.

Bridg. That touches not me, brother. 609

Well. That's true; that's even the fault of it; for indeed, beauty stands a woman in no stead, unless it procure her touching—Well, there's a dear and well-respected friend of mine, sister, stands very strongly and worthily affected towards you, and hath vowed to inflame whole bonfires of zeal at his heart, in honour of your perfections. I have already engaged my promise to bring you where you shall hear him.

confirm much more. Ned Kno'well is the man, sister.—
There's no exception against the party; you are ripe for a husband, and a minute's loss to such an occasion is a great trespass in a wise beauty. What say you, sister? On my soul, he loves you; will you give him the meeting? 621

Bridg. Faith, I had very little confidence in my own constancy, brother, if I durst not meet a man: but this motion of yours savours of an old knight adventurer's servant a little too much, methinks.

Well. What's that, sister?

Bridg. Marry, of the go-between.

Well. No matter if it did; I would be such a one for my friend. But see, who is returned to hinder us. 629

Enter KITELY.

Kite. What villany is this? called out on a false message! This was some plot. I was not sent for. Bridget, where's your sister?

Bridg. I think she be gone forth, sir.

Kite. How! is my wife gone forth? Whither, for Heaven's sake?

Bridg. She's gone abroad with Thomas.

Kite. Abroad with Thomas! Oh, that villain cheats me! He hath discover'd all unto my wife;
Beast that I was to trust him. Whither, I pray
You, went she? 640

Bridg. I know not, sir.

Well. I'll tell you, brother, whither I suspect she's gone.

Kite. Whither, good brother?

Well. To Cob's house, I believe; but keep my counsel.

Kite. I will, I will. To Cob's house? Does she haunt there?

She's gone on purpose now to cuckold me,

With that lewd rascal, who, to win her favour,
Hath told her all—Why wou'd you let her go?

Well. Because she's not my wife: if she were, I'd keep her
to her tether. 650

Kite. So, so, now 'tis plain. I shall go mad
With my misfortunes; now they pour in torrents.
I'm bruted by my wife, betray'd by my servant,
Mock'd at by my relations, pointed at by my neighbours,
Despis'd by myself.—There is nothing left now
But to revenge myself first, next hang myself;
And then—all my cares will be over. [Exit.

Bridg. He storms most loudly; sure you have gone too
far in this.

Well. 'Twill all end right, depend upon't.—But let us lose
no time; the coast is clear; away, away; the affair is worth
it, and cries haste. 662

Bridg. I trust me to your guidance, brother, and so for-
tune for us. [Exeunt.

ACT V. SCENE I.

Stocks-Market. Enter MATTHEW and BOBADIL.

Matthew.

I WONDER, captain, what they will say of my going
away? ha!

Bob. Why, what should they say? but as of a discreet gen-
tleman; quick, wary, respectful of nature's fair lineaments,
and that's all.

Mat. Why so! but what can they say of your beating?

Bob. A rude part, a touch with soft wood, a kind of gross
battery used, lain on strongly, borne most patiently, and

that's all. But wherefore do I wake their remembrance? I was fascinated, by Jupiter! fascinated; but I will be un-
witched, and revenged by law. 11

Mat. Do you hear? Is't not best to get a warrant, and have him arrested, and brought before Justice Clement?

Bob. It were not amiss; would we had it!

Mat. Why, here comes his man, let's speak to him.

Bob. Agreed. Do you speak.

Enter BRAIN-WORM as FORMAL.

Mat. Save you, sir.

Brain. With all my heart, sir!

Mat. Sir, there is one Downright hath abused this gentleman and myself, and we determine to make ourselves amends by law; now, if you would do us the favour to procure a warrant to bring him before your master, you shall be well considered of, I assure you, sir. 23

Brain. Sir, you know my service is my living; such favours as these, gotten of my master, is his only preferment, and therefore you must consider me, as I may make benefit of my place.

Mat. How is that, sir?

Dow. Faith, sir, the thing is extraordinary, and the gentleman may be of great account. Yet, be what he will, if you will lay me down a brace of angels in my hand, you shall have it, otherwise not.

Mat. How shall we do, captain? He asks a brace of angels; you have no money. 34

Bob. Not a cross, by fortune.

Mat. Nor I, as I am a gentleman, but two pence left of my two shillings in the morning for wine and raddish. Let's find him some pawn.

Bob. Pawn! we have none to the value of his demand.

Mat. O, yes, I can pawn my ring here. 40

Bob. And, harkee, he shall have my trusty Toledo too.
I believe I shall have no service for it to-day.

Mat. Do you hear, sir? We have no store of money at this time, but you shall have good pawns; look you, sir, I will pledge this ring, and that gentleman his Toledo, because we would have it dispatched.

Brain. I am content, sir; I will get you the warrant presently. What's his name, say you? Downright?

Mat. Aye, aye, George Downright.

Brain. Well, gentlemen, I'll procure you the warrant presently; but who will you have to serve it? 51

Mat. That's true, captain, that must be considered.

Bob. Body o' me, I know not! 'Tis service of danger.

Brain. Why, you were best get one of the varlets o' the city, a serjeant; I'll appoint you one, if you please.

Mat. Will you, sir? Why we can wish no better.

Bob. We'll leave it to you, sir. [*Exeunt Bob. and Mat.*]

Brain. This is rare! Now will I go pawn this cloak of the justice's man's, at the broker's, for a varlet's suit, and be the varlet myself, and so get money on all sides. [*Exit.*]

SCENE II.

The Street before COB's House. Enter KNO'WELL.

Kno. O, here it is; I have found it now.—Hoa, who is within here? [*Tib. appears at the window.*]

Tib. I am within, sir, what is your pleasure? 63

Kno. To know who is within besides yourself.

Tib. Why, sir, you are no constable, I hope?

Kno. O, fear you the constable? Then I doubt not you have some guests within deserve that fear—I'll fetch him straight.

Tib. For Heaven's sake, sir—

Kno. Go to, come tell me, is not young Kno'well here?

Tib. Young Kno'well! I know none such, sir, o' my honesty. 72

Kno. Your honesty, dame! it flies too lightly from you. There is no way but fetch the constable.

Tib. The constable! the man is mad, I think.

Enter CASH and Dame KITELY.

Cash. Hoa! who keeps house here?

Kno. O, this is the female copesmate of my son. Now shall I meet him straight. [Aside.

Dame. Knock, Thomas, hard.

Cash. Hoa! good wife. 80

Tib. Why, what's the matter with you?

Dame. Why, woman, grieves it you to ope the door! Be-like you get something to keep it shut.

Tib. What mean these questions, pray you?

Dame. So strange you make it! Is not my husband here?

Kno. Her husband! [Aside.

Dame. My tried and faithful husband, Master Kitley.

Tib. I hope he needs not be tried here.

Dame. Come hither, Cash—I see my turtle coming to his haunts; let us retire. [They retire.

Kno. This must be some device to mock me withal. 91
Soft—who is this!—Oh! 'tis my son disguis'd.
I'll watch him and surprise him.

Enter KITELY muffled in a cloak.

Kite. 'Tis truth, I see, there she skulks.
But I will fetch her from her hold—I will—
I tremble so, I scarce have power to do the justice
Her infamy demands.

[As Kitley goes forward, Dame Kitley and Kno'well
lay hold of him.]

Kno. Have I trapped you, youth? You cannot 'scape me now.

Dame. O, sir! have I forestall'd your honest market?
Found your close walks? You stand amaz'd 100
Now, do you? Ah, hide, hide your face for shame!
I'faith, I am glad I have found you out at last.
What is your jewel, trow? In, come let's see her; fetch
Forth the wanton dame—If she be fairer,
In any honest judgment, than myself,
I'll be content with it: but she is change;
She feeds you fat, she soothes your appetite,
And you are well. Your wife, an honest woman,
Is meat twice sod to you, sir. O, you traitor!

Kno. What mean you, woman? Let go your hold, 110
I see the counterfeit—I am his father, and claim him as my
own.

Kite. [*Discovering himself.*] I am your cuckold, and claim
my vengeance.

Dame. What, do you wrong me, and insult me too?
Thou faithless man!

Kite. Out on thy more than strumpet's impudence!
Steal'st thou thus to thy haunts? And have I taken
Thy bawd and thee, and thy companion,
This hoary-headed lecher, this old goat,
Close at your villany, and wouldst thou 'scuse it
With this stale harlot's jest, accusing me? 120
O, old incontinent, dost thou not shame,
To have a mind so hot; and to entice,
And feed the enticement of a lustful woman?

Dame. Out, I defy thee, thou dissembling wretch!

Kite. Defy me, strumpet! Ask thy pander here,
Can he deny it, or that wicked elder?

Kno. Why, hear you, sir——

Cash. Master, 'tis in vain to reason while these passions blind you—I am griev'd to see you thus.

Kite. Tut, tut, never speak, I see thro' ev'ry 130
Veil you cast upon your treachery: but I have
Done with you, and root you from my heart for ever.
For you, sir, thus I demand my honour's due;
Resolv'd to cool your lust, or end my shame. [*Draws.*

Kno. What lunacy is this! Put up your sword, and undeceive yourself—No arm that e'er pois'd weapon can affright me. But I pity folly, nor cope with madness.

Kite. I will have proofs—I will—so you good wife-bawd, Cob's wife; and you, that make your husband such a monster; and you, young pander and old cuckold-maker, I'll ha' you every one before the justice—Nay, you shall answer it; I charge you go. Come forth, thou bawd. 142

[*Goes into the house and brings out Tib.*

Kno. Marry, with all my heart, sir; I go willingly.
Tho' I do taste this as a trick put on me,
To punish my impertinent search; and justly;
And half forgive my son for the device.

Kite. Come, will you go?

Dame. Go, to thy shame believe it.

Kite. Tho' shame and sorrow both my heart betide,
Come on—I must, and will be satisfy'd. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE III.

Stocks-Market. Enter BRAIN-WORM.

Brain. Well, of all my disguises yet, now am I most like myself; being in this serjeant's gown. A man of my present profession never counterfeits, till he lays hold upon a debtor, and says, he 'rests him; for then he brings him to

all manner of unrest. A kind of little kings we are, bearing the diminutive of a mace, made like a young artichoke, that always carries pepper and salt in itself. Well, I know not what danger I undergo by this exploit: pray Heaven I come well off!

159

Enter BOBADIL and Mr. MATTHEW.

Mat. See, I think yonder is the varlet, by his gown. Save you, friend; are not you here by appointment of justice Clement's man?

Brain. Yes, an't please you, sir; he told me two gentlemen had willed him to procure a warrant from his master, which I have about me, to be served on one Downright.

Mat. It is honestly done of you both; and see where the party comes you must arrest. Serve it upon him quickly, before he be aware —

Enter Mr. STEPHEN, in DOWNRIGHT's cloak.

Bob. Bear back, Master Matthew.

169

Brain. Master Downright, I arrest you i' the queen's name, and must carry you before a justice, by virtue of this warrant.

Step. Me, friend, I am no Downright, I. I am Master Stephen; you do not well to arrest me, I tell you truly. I am in nobody's bonds or books, I would you should know it. A plague on you heartily, for making me thus afraid before my time.

Brain. Why now you are deceived, gentlemen!

Bob. He wears such a cloak, and that deceived us. But see, here he comes indeed! this is he, officer.

180

Enter DOWNRIGHT.

Dow. Why, how now, Signor Gull! are you turned filcher of late? Come, deliver up my cloak.

Step. Your cloak, sir! I bought it even now in open market.

Brain. Master Downright, I have a warrant I must serve upon you, procured by these two gentlemen.

Dow. These gentlemen! these rascals!

Brain. Keep the peace, I charge you in her majesty's name.

Dow. I obey thee. What must I do, officer? 190

Brain. Go before master justice Clement, to answer what they can object against you, sir. I will use you kindly, sir.

Mat. Come, let's before, and make the justice, captain—
[Exit.]

Bob. The varlet's a tall man, before Heaven! [Exit.]

Dow. Gull, you'll gi' me my cloak?

Step. Sir, I bought it, and I'll keep it.

Dow. You will?

Step. Aye, that I will.

Dow. Officer, there's thy fee, arrest him.

Brain. Master Stephen, I must arrest you. 200

Step. Arrest me! I scorn it; there, take your cloak, I'll none on't.

Dow. Nay, that shall not serve your turn now, sir. Officer, I'll go with thee to the justice's. Bring him along.

Step. Why, is not here your cloak, what would you have?

Dow. I'll ha' you answer it, sir.

Brain. Sir, I'll take your word, and this gentleman's too, for his appearance.

Dow. I'll ha' no words taken. Bring him along.

Brain. So, so, I have made a fair mash on't. 210

Step. Must I go?

Brain. I know no remedy, Master Stephen.

Dow. Come along before me here. I do not love your hanging look behind.

Step. Why, sir, I hope you cannot hang me for it. Can he, fellow?

Brain. I think not, sir. It is but a whipping matter, sure!

Step. Why, then let him do his worst, I am resolute.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

A Hall in Justice CLEMENT's House. Enter CLEMENT, KNO'WELL, KITELY, Dame KITELY, TIB, CASH, COB, and Servants.

Clem. Nay, but stay, stay, give me leave. My chair, sirrah. You, Master Kno'well, say you went thither to meet your son. 222

Kno. Aye, sir.

Clem. But who directed you thither?

Kno. That did mine own man, sir.

Clem. Where is he?

Kno. Nay, I know not now; I left him with your clerk; and appointed him to stay for me.

Clem. My clerk! About what time was this?

Kno. Marry, between one and two o'clock, as I take it.

Clem. And what time came my man with the false message to you, Master Kitley? 232

Kite. After two, sir.

Clem. Very good: but, Mrs. Kitley, how chance it that you were at Cob's? Ha!

Dame. An't please you, sir, I'll tell you. My brother Wellbred told me, that Cob's house was a suspected place——

Clem. So it appears, methinks: but on.

Dame. And that my husband used thither daily.

Clem. No matter, so he us'd himself well, mistress. 240

Dame. True, sir; but you know what grows by such haunts oftentimes.

Clem. I see rank fruits of a jealous brain, Mrs. Kitley. But did you find your husband there, in that case, as you suspected?

Kite. I found her there, sir.

Clem. Did you so? That alters the case. Who gave you knowledge of your wife's being there?

Kite. Marry, that did my brother Well-bred.

Clem. How, Well-bred first tell her, then tell you after? Where is Well-bred? 251

Kite. Gone with my sister, sir, I know not whither.

Clem. Why, this is a mere trick, a device; you are gulled in this most grossly all! Alas, poor wench, wert thou suspected for this?

Tib. Yes, an't please you.

Clem. I smell mischief here, plot and contrivance, Master Kitley. However, if you will step into the next room with your wife, and think coolly of matters, you'll find some trick has been played you—I fear there have been jealousies on both parts, and the wags have been merry with you. 261

Kite. I begin to feel it—I'll take your counsel—Will you go in, dame?

Dame. I will have justice, Mr. Kitley.

[Exit Kite. and Dame.]

Clem. You will be a woman, Mrs. Kitley, that I see—How now, what's the matter?

Enter Servant.

Serv. Sir, there's a gentleman i' the court without, desires to speak with your worship.

Clem. A gentleman! What's he?

Serv. A soldier, sir, he says.

270

Clem. A soldier! My sword, quickly. A soldier speak with me! Stand by, I will end your matters anon—Let the soldier enter. Now, sir, what ha' you to say to me?

Enter BOBADIL and MATTHEW.

Bob. By your worship's favour—

Clem. Nay, keep out, sir, I know not your pretence; you send me word, sir, you are a soldier. Why, sir, you shall be answered here; here be them have been among soldiers. Sir, your pleasure?

278

Bob. Faith, sir, so it is, this gentleman and myself have been most uncivilly wronged and beaten by one Downright, a coarse fellow about the town here; and, for my own part, I protest, being a man in no sort given to this filthy humour of quarrelling, he hath assaulted me in the way of my peace; despoiled me of mine honour; disarmed me of my weapons; and rudely laid me along in the open streets; when I not so much as once offered to resist him.

Clem. O, God's precious! Is this the soldier? Lie there, my sword, 'twill make him swoon, I fear; he is not fit to look on't, that will put up a blow.

289

Mat. An't please your worship he was bound to the peace.

Clem. Why, an' he were, sir, his hands were not bound, were they?

Serv. There's one of the varlets of the city, sir, has brought two gentlemen here, one upon your worship's warrant.

Clem. My warrant!

Serv. Yes, sir, the officer says, procured by these two.

Clem. Bid him come in. Set by this picture. What, Mr. Downright! are you brought at Mr. Freshwater's suit here?

Enter DOWNRIGHT, STEPHEN, and BRAIN-WORM.

Dow. I'faith, sir. And here's another brought at my suit.

Clem. What are you, sir?

301

Step. A gentleman, sir. O, uncle!

Clem. Uncle! Who, Master Kno'well?

Kno. Aye, sir, this is a wise kinsman of mine.

Step. God's my witness, uncle, I am wrong'd here monstrously; he charges me with stealing of his cloak, and would I might never stir, if I did not find it in the street by chance.

Dow. O, did you find it, now? You said you bought it ere-while.

Step. And you said I stole it. Nay, now my uncle is here, I'll do well enough with you.

311

Clem. Well, let this breathe a-while. You that have cause to complain there, stand forth. Had you my warrant for this gentleman's apprehension.

Bob. Aye, an't please your worship.

Clem. Nay, do not speak in passion so. Where had you it?

Bob. Of your clerk, sir.

Clem. That's well, an' my clerk can make warrants, and my hand not at 'em! Where is the warrant? officer, have you it?

320

Brain. No, sir, your worship's man, Master Formal, bid me do it for these gentlemen, and he would be my discharge.

Clem. Why, Master Downright, are you such a novice to be served, and never see the warrant?

Dow. Sir, he did not serve it on me.

Clem. No, how then?

Dow. Marry, sir, he came to me, and said he must serve it, and he would use me kindly, and so—

Clem. O, God's pity, was it so, sir? He must serve it? Give me a warrant, I must serve one too—you knave, you

slave, you rogue, do you say you must, sirrah ! Away with him to the gaol. I'll teach you a trick for your *must*, sir.

Brain. Good sir, I beseech you be good to me.

Clem. Tell him he shall go to the gaol, away with him, I say.

Brain. Aye, sir, if you will commit me, it shall be for committing more than this. I will not lose by my travel any grain of my fame certain. [*Throws off his disguise.*]

Clem. How is this ?

Kno. My man, Brain-worm ! 340

Step. O, yes, uncle, Brain-worm has been with my cousin Edward and I, all this day.

Clem. I told you all there was some device.

Brain. Nay, excellent justice, since I have laid myself thus open to you, now stand strong for me, both with your sword and your balance.

Clem. Body o' me, a merry knave ! Give me a bowl of sack. If he belongs to you, Master Kno'well, I bespeak your patience.

Brain. That is it I have most need of. Sir, if you'll pardon me only, I'll glory in all the rest of my exploits. 351

Kno. Sir, you know I love not to have my favours come hard from me. You have your pardon ; though I suspect you shrewdly for being of counsel with my son against me.

Brain. Yes, faith, I have, sir ; though you retained me doubly this morning for yourself ; first, as Brain-worm, after, as Fitz-sword. I was your reformed soldier. 'Twas I sent you to Cob's upon the errand without end.

Kno. Is it possible ! Or that thou shouldst disguise thyself so as I should not know thee ? 360

Brain. O, sir ! this has been the day of my metamorphoses ; it is not that shape alone that I have run through to-day. I brought Master Kitley a message too, in the form

of Master Justice's man here, to draw him out o' the way, as well as your worship; while Master Well-bred might make a conveyance of Mistress Bridget to my young master.

Kno. My son is not married, I hope.

Brain. Faith, sir, they are both, as sure as love, a priest, and three thousand pounds, which is her portion, can make 'em: and by this time are ready to bespeak their wedding supper at the Windmill, except some friend here prevent 'em, and invite 'em home.

372

Clem. Marry, that will I; I thank thee for putting me in mind on't. Sirrah, go you and fetch them hither upon my warrant. Neither friends have cause to be sorry, if I know the young couple aright. But, I pray thee, what hast thou done with my man, Formal?

Brain. Faith, sir, after some ceremony past, as making him drunk, first with story, and then with wine, but all in kindness, and stripping him to his shirt; I left him in that cool vein, departed, sold your worship's warrant to these two, pawned his livery for that varlet's gown to serve it in; and thus have brought myself, by my activity, to your worship's consideration.

384

Clem. And I will consider thee in a cup of sack. Here's to thee; which having drank off, this is my sentence, pledge me. Thou hast done, or assisted to nothing, in my judgment, but deserves to be pardoned for the wit o' the offence. Go into the next room; let Master Kitely into this whimsical business, and if he does not forgive thee, he has less mirth in him than an honest man ought to have. How now, who are these?

392

Enter EDW. KNO'WELL, WELL-BRED, and BRIDGET.

O, the young company. Welcome, welcome. Give you joy. Nay, Mrs. Bridget, blush not, you are not so fresh a

bride, but the news of it is come hither before you. Master Bridegroom, I have made your peace, give me your hand. So will I for the rest, ere you forsake my roof.

All. We are the more bound to your humanity, sir.

Clem. Only these two have so little of man in 'em, they are no part of my care. 400

Step. And what shall I do?

Clem. O! I had lost a sheep, an' he had not bleated. Why, sir, you shall give Mr. Downright his cloak; and I will entreat him to take it. A trencher and a napkin you shall have in the buttery, and keep Cob and his wife company here; whom I will entreat first to be reconciled; and you to endeavour with your wit to keep 'em so.

Step. I'll do my best.

Clem. Call Master Kitely and his wife, there. 409

Enter Mr. KITELY and Dame KITELY.

Did not I tell you there was a plot against you? Did I not smell it out, as a wise magistrate ought? Have not you traced, have you not found it, Eh, Master Kitely?

Kite. I have—I confess my folly, and own I have deserv'd what I have suffered for it. The trial has been severe, but it is past. All I have to ask now, is, that as my folly is cured, and my persecutors forgiven, my shame may be forgotten.

Clem. That will depend upon yourself, Master Kitely; do not you yourself create the food for mischief, and the mischievous will not prey upon you. But come, let a general reconciliation go round, and let all discontents be laid aside. You, Mr. Downright, put off your anger. You, Master Kno'well, your cares. And do you, Master Kitely, and your wife, put off your jealousies. 423

Kite. Sir, thus they go from me: kiss me, my wife. See, what a drove of horns fly in the air,

Wing'd with my cleansed, and my credulous breath ;
Watch 'em, suspicious eyes, watch where they fall,
See, see, on heads, that think they've none at all.
O, what a plenteous world of this will come !

When air rains horns, all may be sure of some. 430

“ *Clem.* 'Tis well, 'tis well. This night we'll dedicate to
“ friendship, love, and laughter. Master Bridegroom, take
“ your bride, and lead, every one a fellow. Here is my
“ mistress, Brain-worm ! to whom all my addresses of court-
“ ship shall have their reference : whose adventures this day,
“ when our grand-children shall hear to be made a fable, I
“ doubt not but it shall find both spectators and applause.”

7 JU 52

[*Exeunt omnes.*]



9 II 52